DAN WATTERS & RAM V
MATTHEW ROBERTS
UNIVERSAL MONSTERS
DAVE STEWART
TRISH MULVIHILL
CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON LIVES!
"A must-read series."
– ComicBook.com

PRAISE FOR

UNIVERSAL MONSTERS

CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON LIVES!

"THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON LIVES! is the perfect new comic for horror movie fans."
-Slash Film

"The sophomore outing of the Universal Monsters line is another thrilling success."
-ComicBook.com

"Image and Skybound's new CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON LIVES! mini-series is the perfect reinvention of this Universal Monsters icon."
-Screen Rant

"CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON LIVES is a very successfully constructed comic that tells its story solidly—beautifully, even."
-Monkeys Fighting Robots

"CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON LIVES! establishes one of the most thought-provoking tales of the year, elevating its source material to a place that most would never dare to venture."
-Comic-Watch

"Watters and Ram V masterfully weave together elements of suspense, horror, and adventure, crafting a narrative that pays homage to its cinematic predecessor while carving out its own unique path."
-Geek Therapy

"With strong writing, stunning artwork, and a unique take on a classic story, this series has all the makings of a standout hit."
-Capes and Tights

"The Creature From The Black Lagoon Lives, and thank goodness he's back."
-Mid-Life Gamer Geek

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ARTIST

DAVE STEWART CHAPTERS 1-2 **TRISH MULVIHILL** CHAPTERS 3-4
COLORISTS

DC HOPKINS
LETTERER

UNIVERSAL MONSTERS

CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON LIVES!

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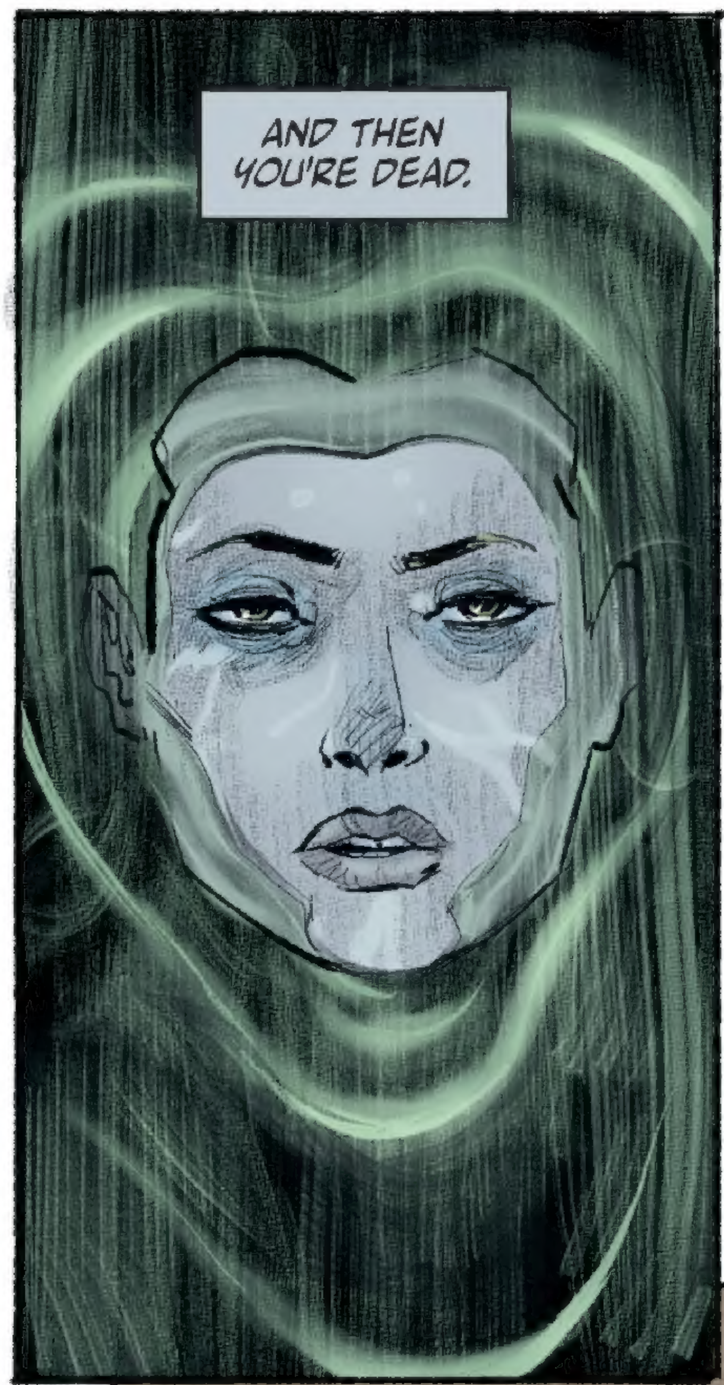
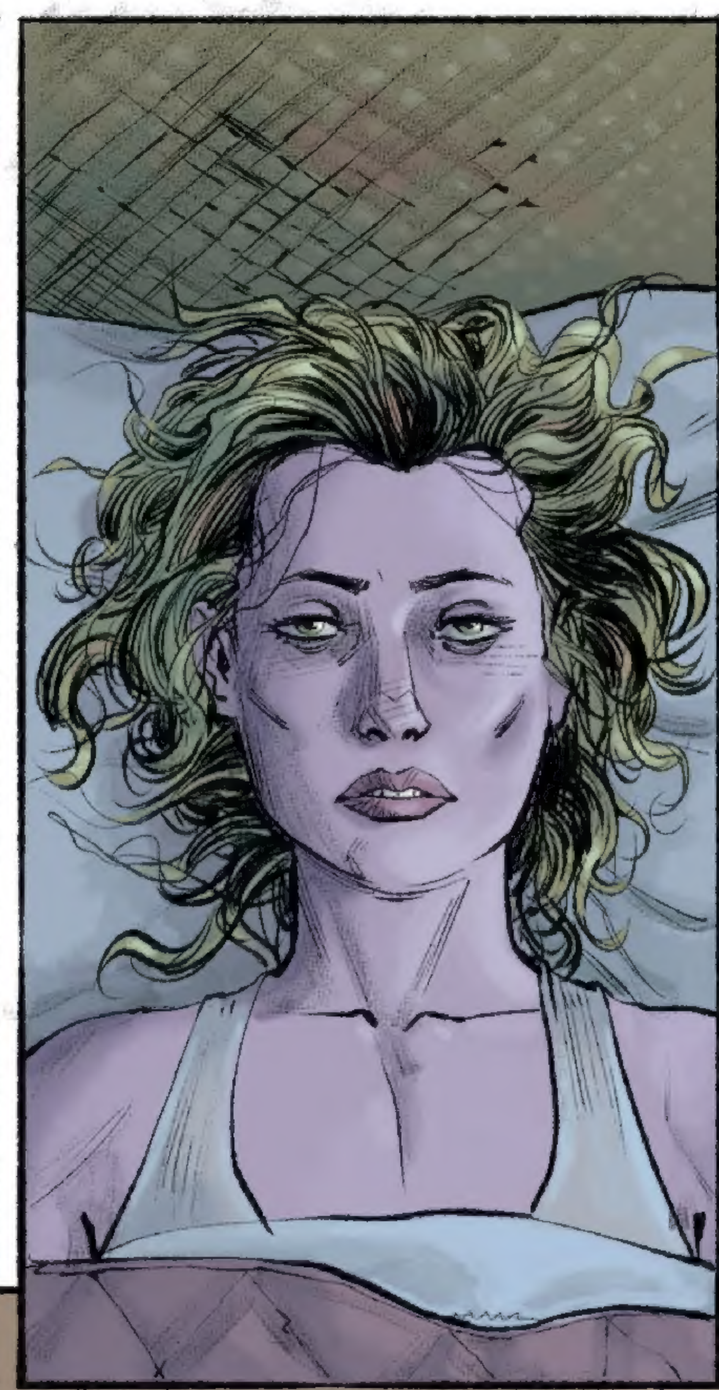
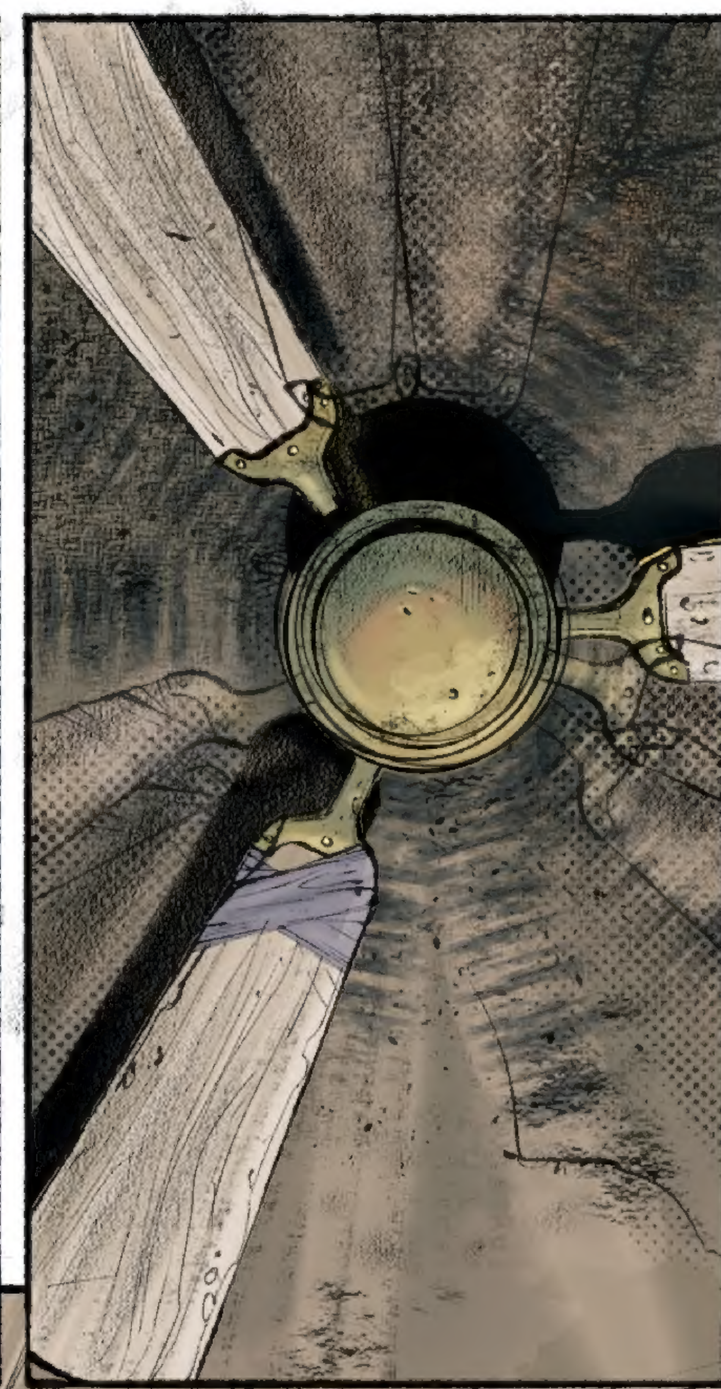
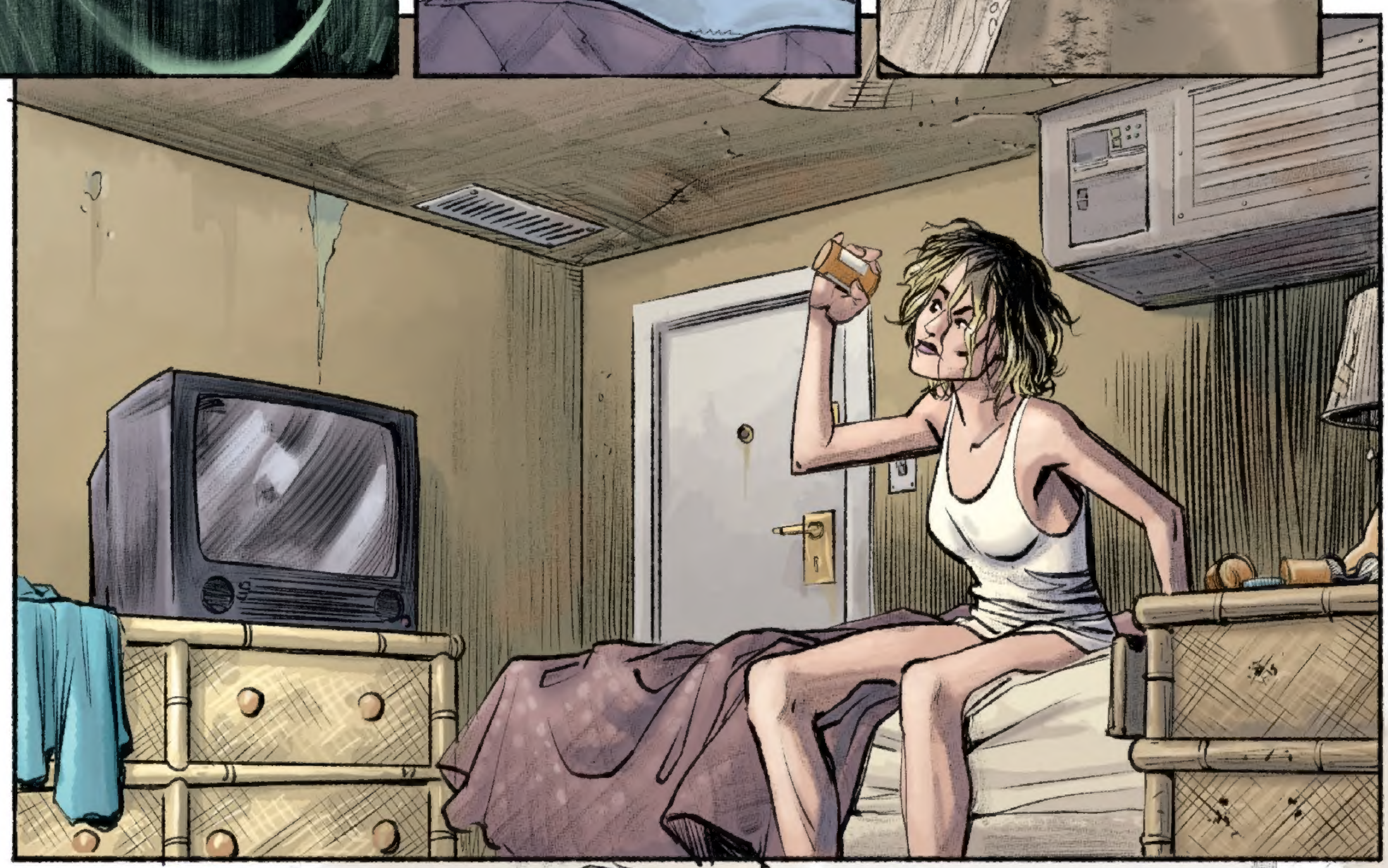
THEY SAY IT'S THE MOST PEACEFUL WAY TO DIE.
THEY SAY YOU FEEL **WARM**, THAT THE BRAIN **RELAXES** AS IT'S DEPRIVED OF OXYGEN.
WHAT DO THEY KNOW?
THERE'S NO RETURNING TO THE WOMB.
NO GENTLE EMBRACE BY THE VOID.
JUST DROWNING.
SCREAMING FOR **AIR**, CLAWING FOR **LIFE** WITH EVERY FIBER OF YOUR MUSCLES.


AND THEN YOU'RE DEAD.





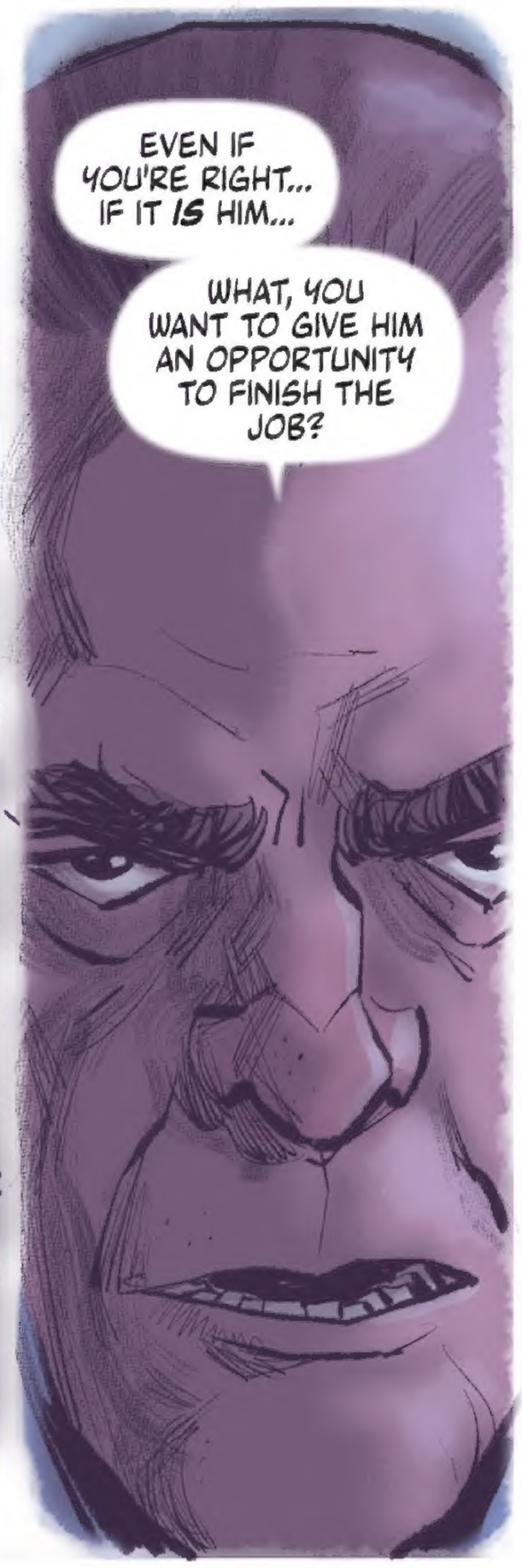


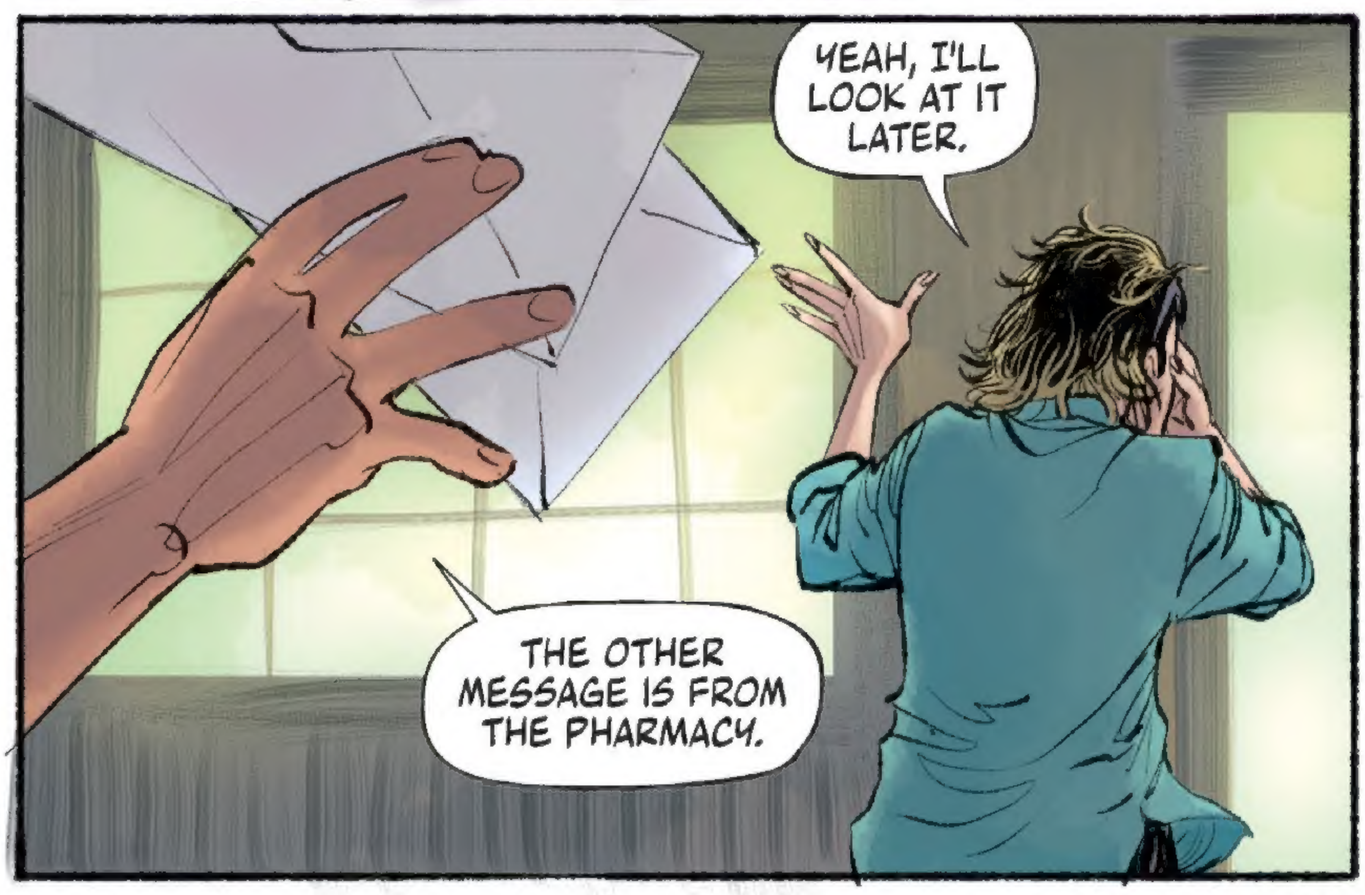
SEÑORA! YOU HAVE MESSAGES.
OH, JOY OF JOYS.
EXACTLY WHAT MY MIGRAINE NEEDED.

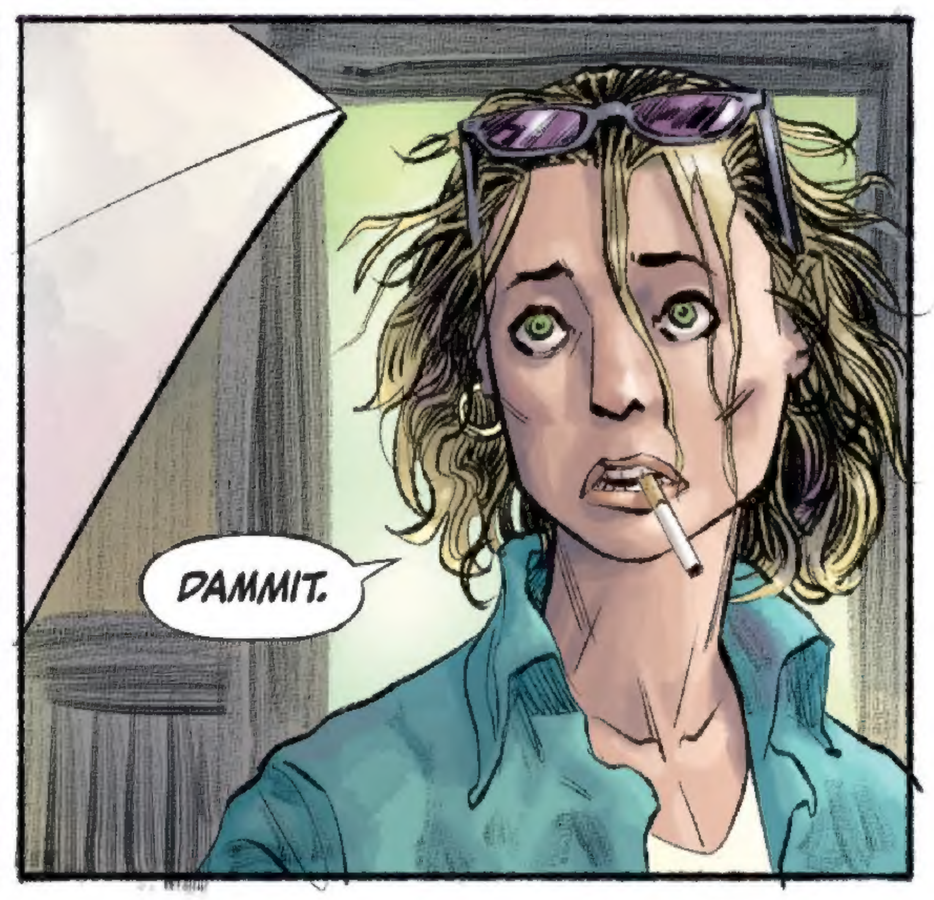
I THINK THIS ONE IS YOUR EDITOR. FROM AMERICA.

KATE. WE'RE ALL SO SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.
WE NEVER WANT OUR REPORTERS TO BECOME PART OF THE STORY, YOU KNOW?
ESPECIALLY NOT LIKE THAT.

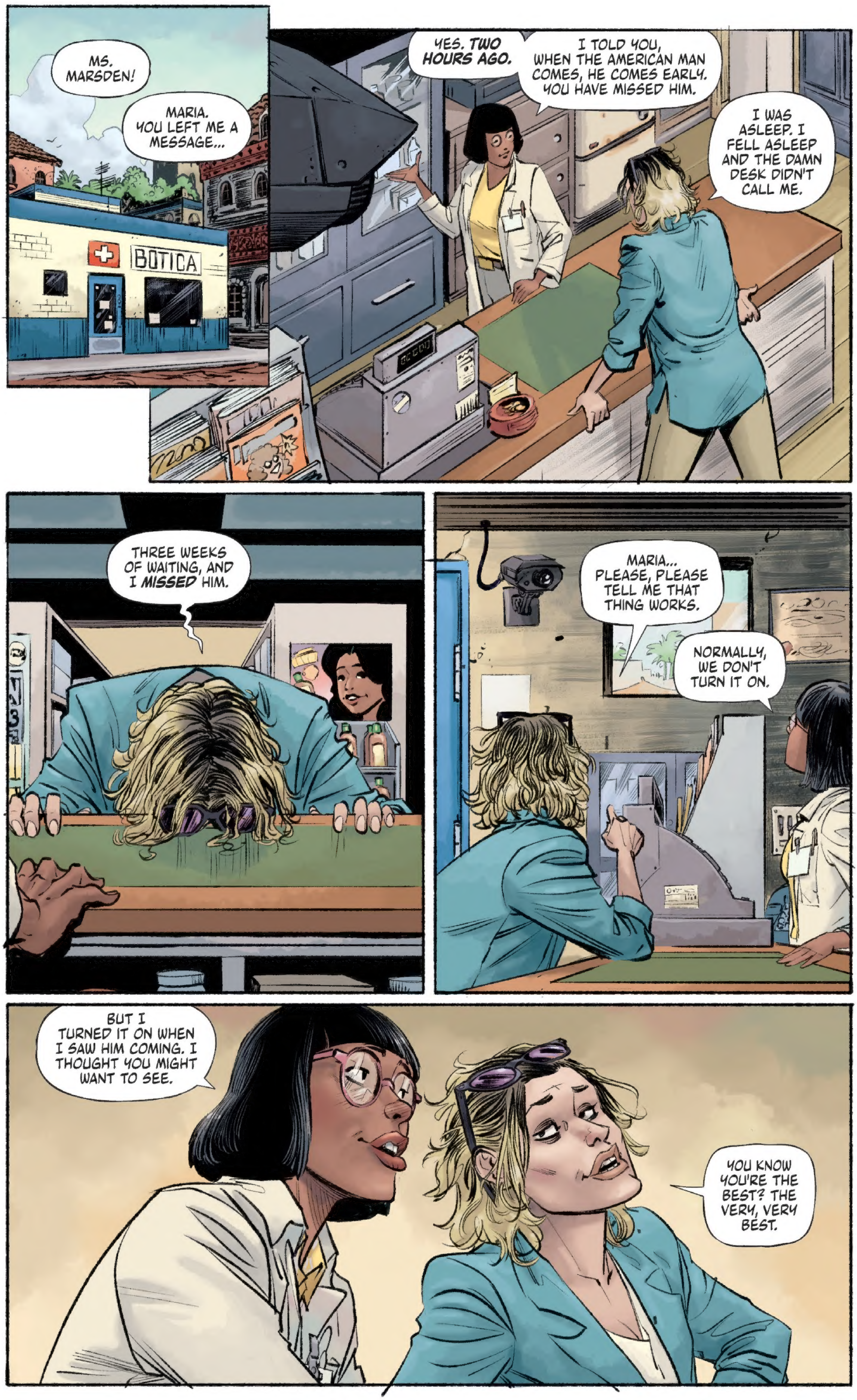
EVEN YOU... YOU STILL NEED TO HEAL, KATE. AND WHATEVER THAT LOOKS LIKE FOR YOU, WE'LL SUPPORT IT.
BUT WE CAN'T SEND YOU TO THE ASS-END OF PERU TO CHASE DOWN A LEAD. WE JUST CAN'T.


EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT... IF IT IS HIM...
WHAT, YOU WANT TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO FINISH THE JOB?


YEAH, I'LL LOOK AT IT LATER.
THE OTHER MESSAGE IS FROM THE PHARMACY.

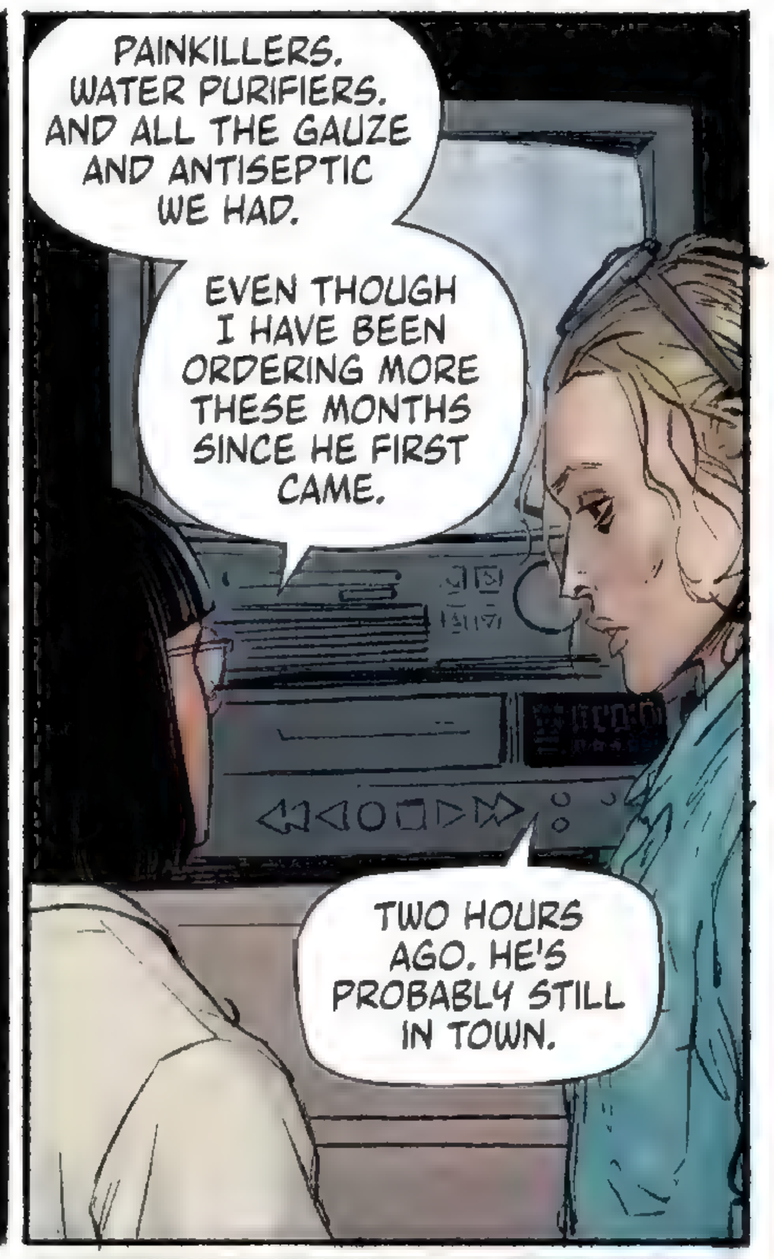

DAMMIT.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES
AND SKYBOUND PRESENT...
CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON LIVES!


MS. MARSDEN!
MARIA. YOU LEFT ME A MESSAGE...
BOTICA
YES. TWO HOURS AGO.
I TOLD YOU, WHEN THE AMERICAN MAN COMES, HE COMES EARLY. YOU HAVE MISSED HIM.
I WAS ASLEEP. I FELL ASLEEP AND THE DAMN DESK DIDN'T CALL ME.
THREE WEEKS OF WAITING, AND I MISSED HIM.
MARIA... PLEASE, PLEASE TELL ME THAT THING WORKS.
NORMALLY, WE DON'T TURN IT ON.
BUT I TURNED IT ON WHEN I SAW HIM COMING. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO SEE.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE BEST? THE VERY, VERY BEST.

IT'S HIM.

I'M SURE OF IT. IT'S HIM.
HE CAME AND HE BOUGHT WHAT HE NORMALLY DOES.


PAINKILLERS. WATER PURIFIERS. AND ALL THE GAUZE AND ANTISEPTIC WE HAD.
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE BEEN ORDERING MORE THESE MONTHS SINCE HE FIRST CAME.
TWO HOURS AGO. HE'S PROBABLY STILL IN TOWN.

I ASKED HIM WHERE HE WAS GOING. WHERE HE WAS STAYING.
YOU DID WHAT?

HE DIDN'T ANSWER ME. HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING. I'M SORRY I COULD NOT HELP MORE, MS. MARSDEN.
JESUS, MARIA, IT'S NOT THAT...
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL AROUND HIM. YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO PAY YOU ATTENTION.

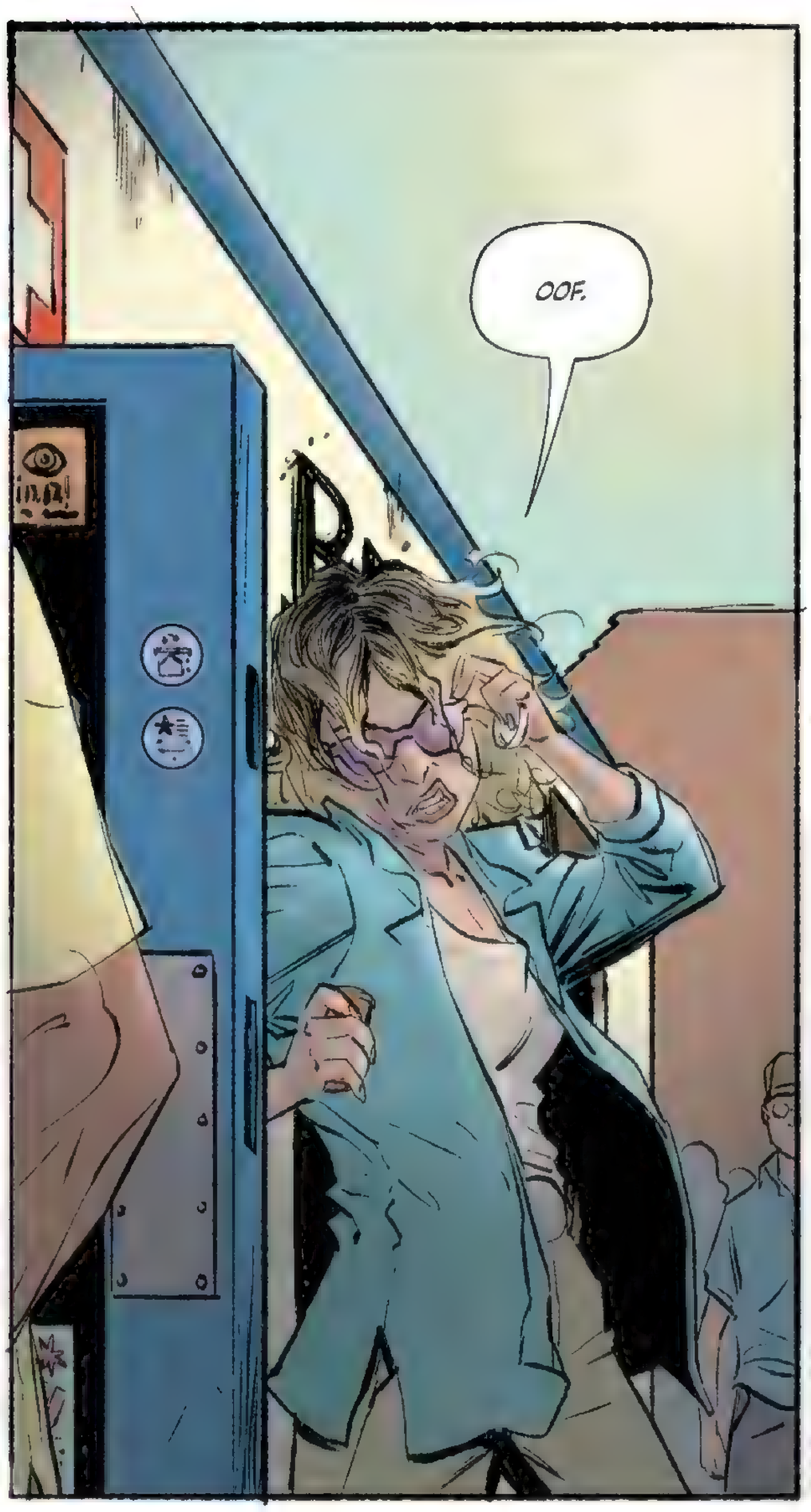
BUT SERIOUSLY. THANK YOU FOR THIS. I OWE YOU ONE.
AND SPEAKING OF WHICH...
THE AMPHETAMINE. YOU NEED MORE ALREADY?

I ONLY HAD A HALF LEFT LAST NIGHT. THAT'S WHY I FELL ASLEEP. WHY I MISSED HIM.
YOU MUST SLEEP SOMETIMES.

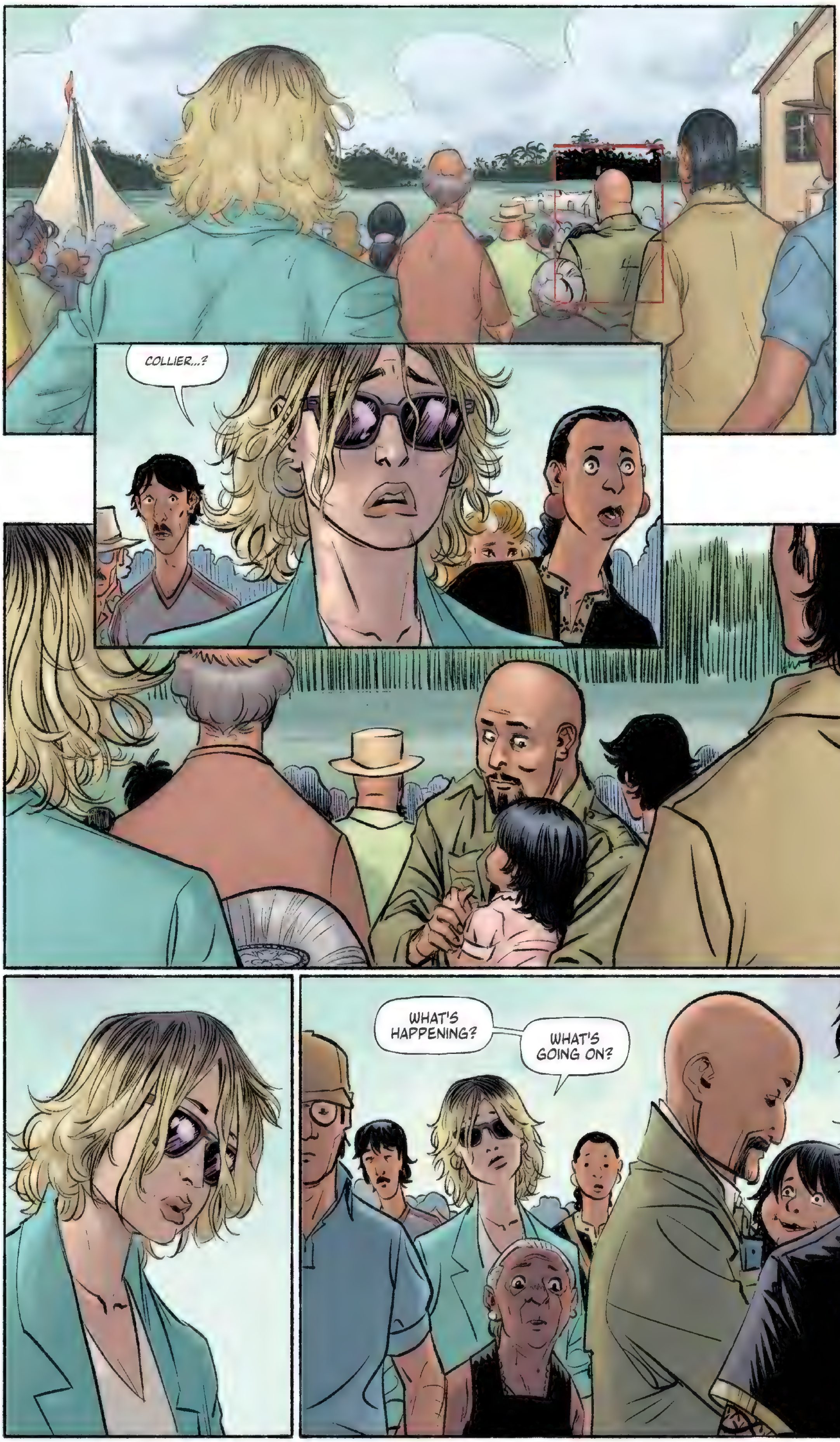
BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO DREAM.
MS. MARSDEN...BE CAREFUL.
IF HE IS STILL IN THE TOWN...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

I'M CAREFUL.

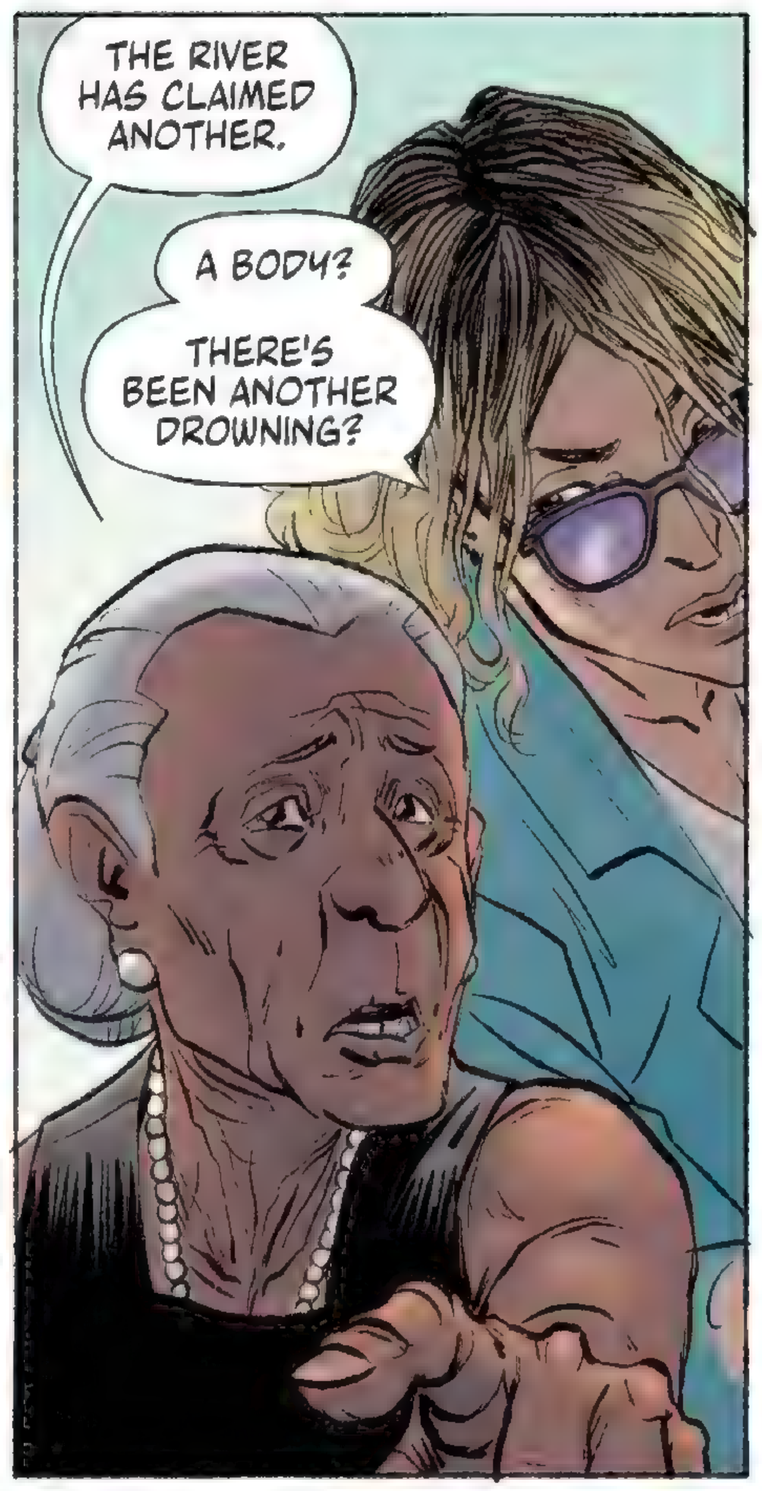
WHAT, YOU WANT TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO FINISH THE JOB?


OOF.

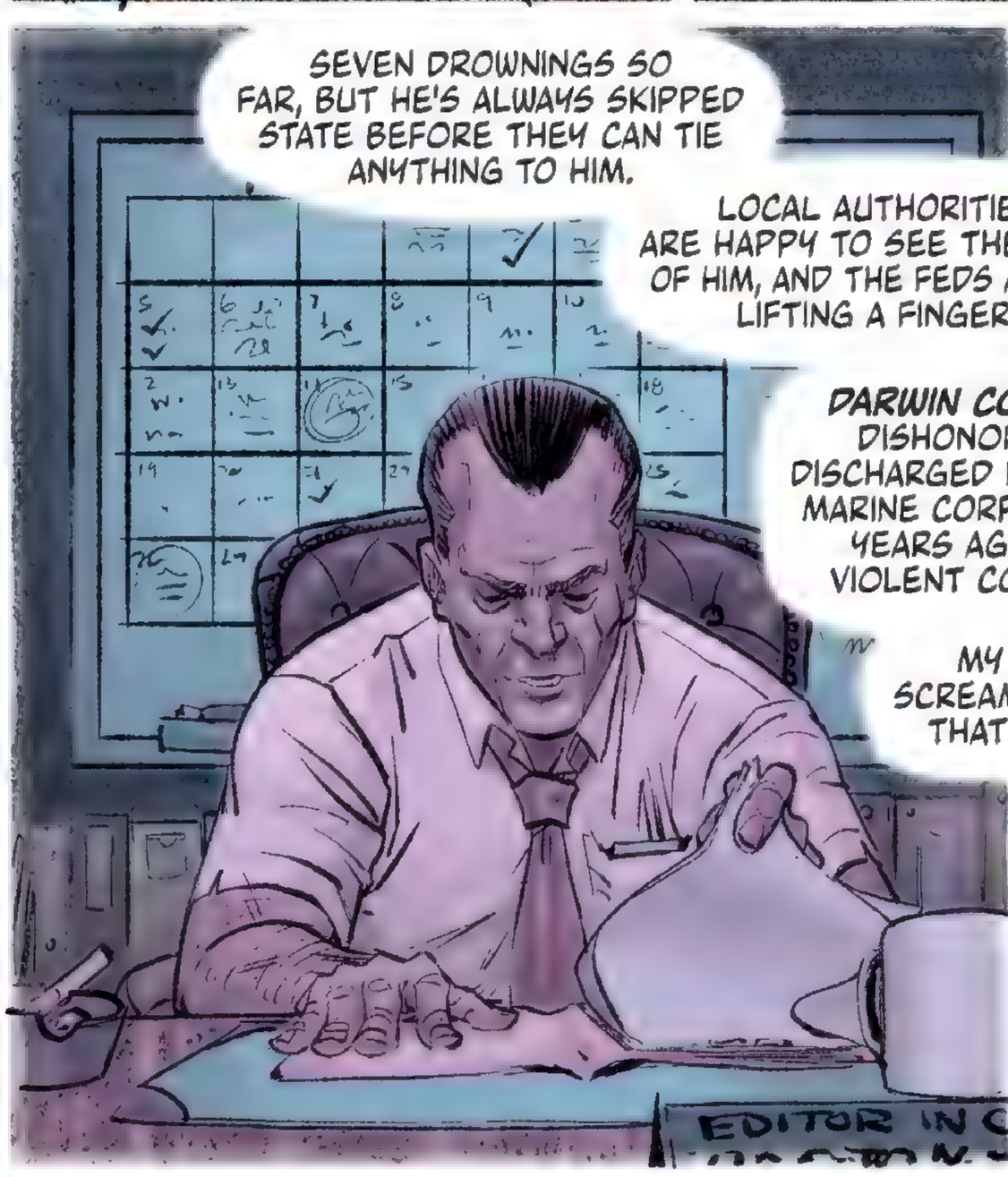
SCREW YOU.

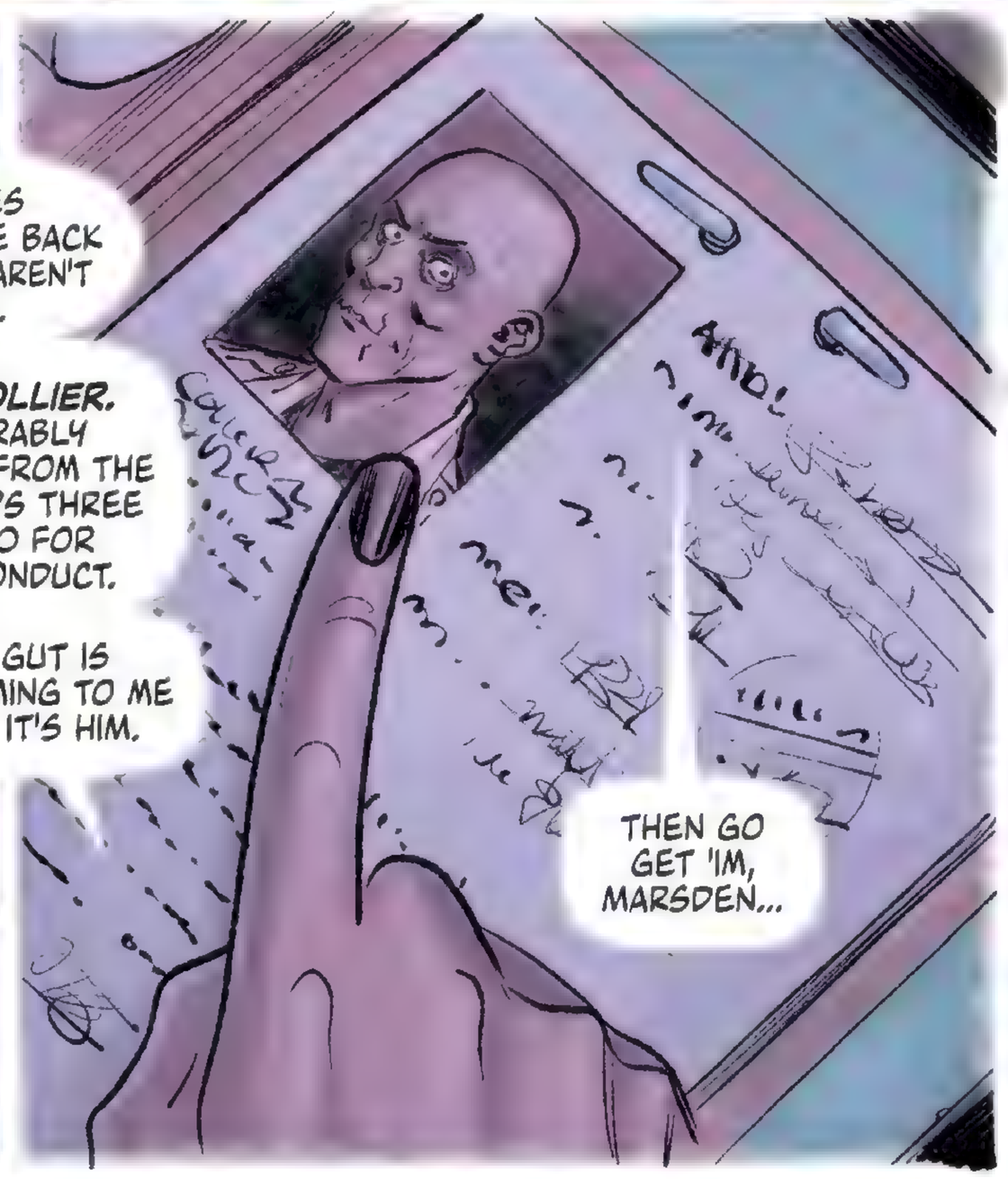

COLLIER...?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

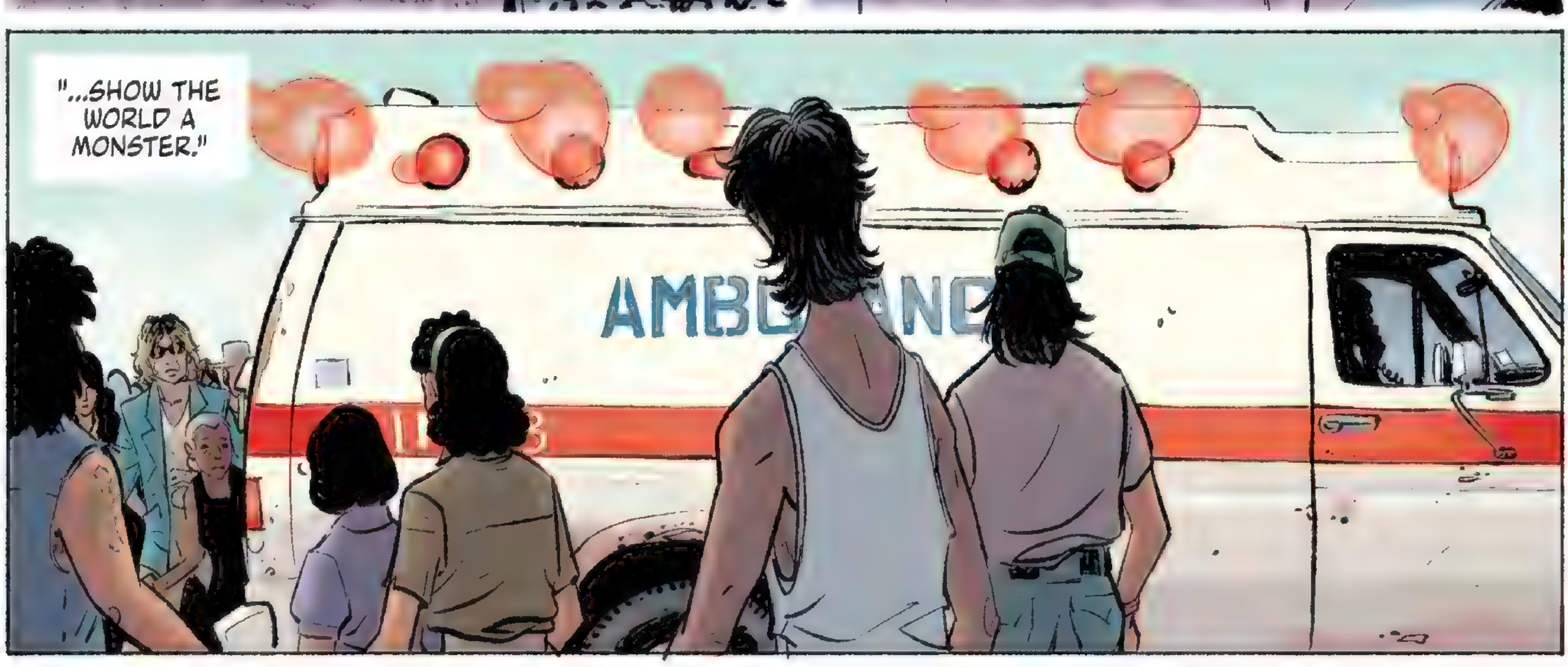
UH... TÚ HABLAS INGLÉS?

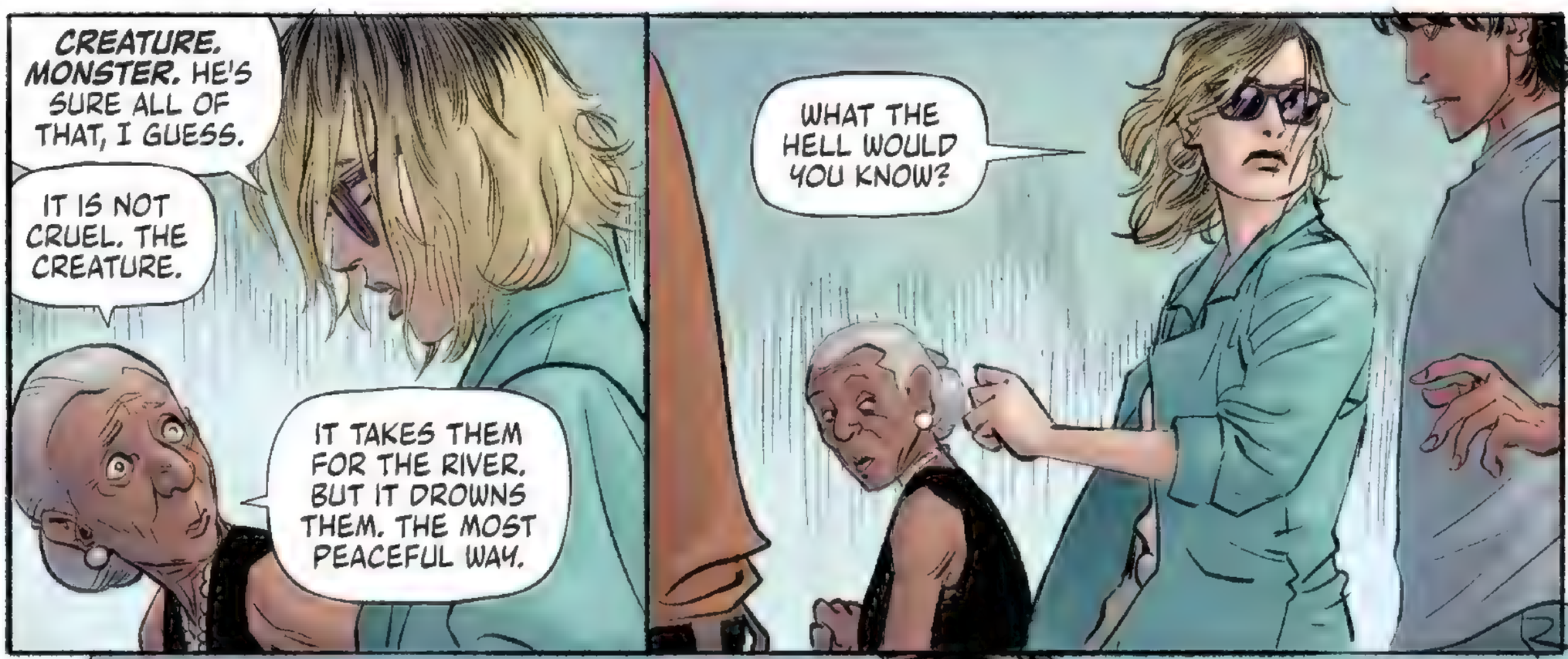

THE RIVER HAS CLAIMED ANOTHER.
A BODY?
THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER DROWNING?

IT IS NOT GOOD TO SPEAK OF IT.
THE CREATURE DOES NOT LIKE TO BE SPOKEN OF.
IT IS WHY IT PULLS THE BREATH FROM THEIR LUNGS AND FILLS THEM BACK UP WITH BLACK MUD FROM THE RIVER.
THE CREATURE. RIGHT.

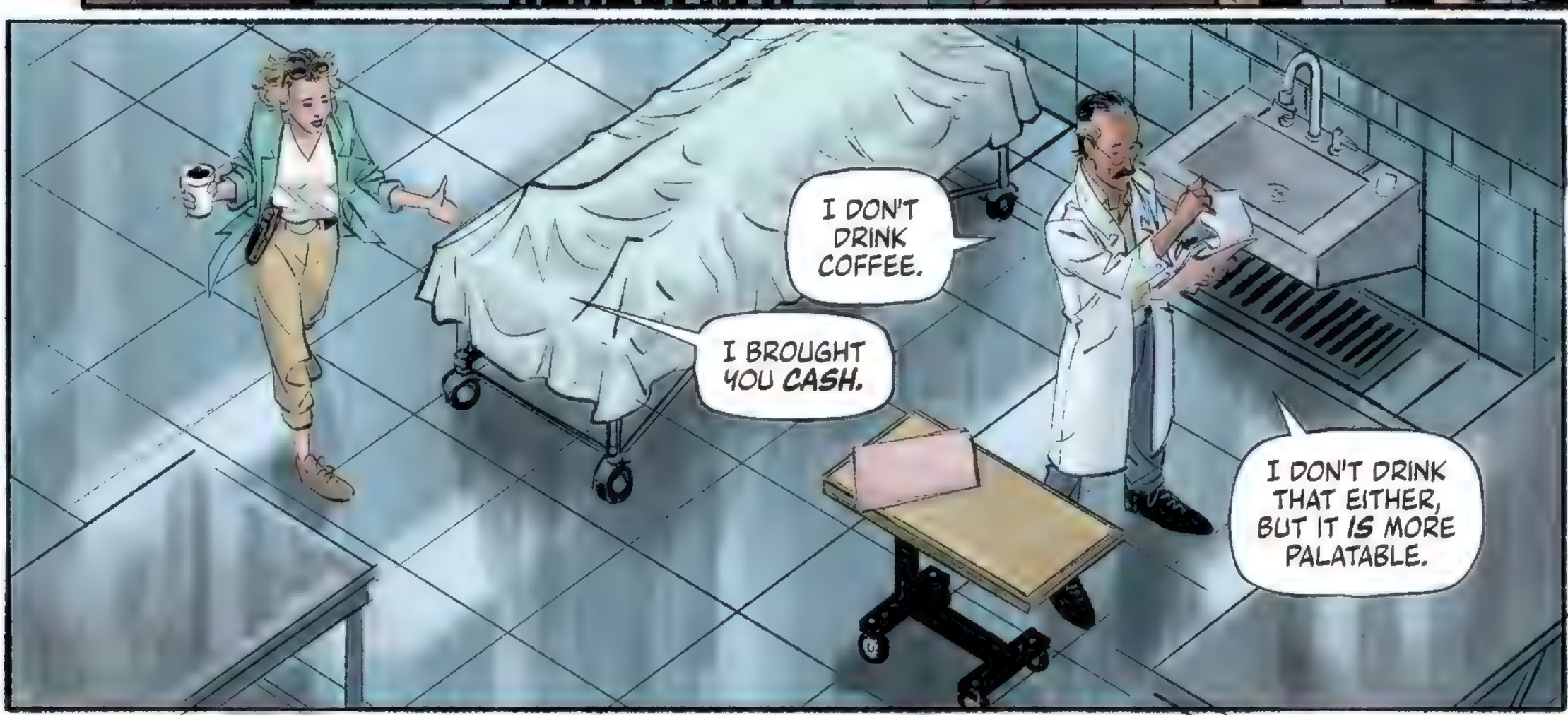

SEVEN DROWNINGS SO FAR, BUT HE'S ALWAYS SKIPPED STATE BEFORE THEY CAN TIE ANYTHING TO HIM.
LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE HAPPY TO SEE THE BACK OF HIM, AND THE FEDS AREN'T LIFTING A FINGER.
DARWIN COLLIER. DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM THE MARINE CORPS THREE YEARS AGO FOR VIOLENT CONDUCT.
MY GUT IS SCREAMING TO ME THAT IT'S HIM.


THEN GO GET 'IM, MARSDEN...

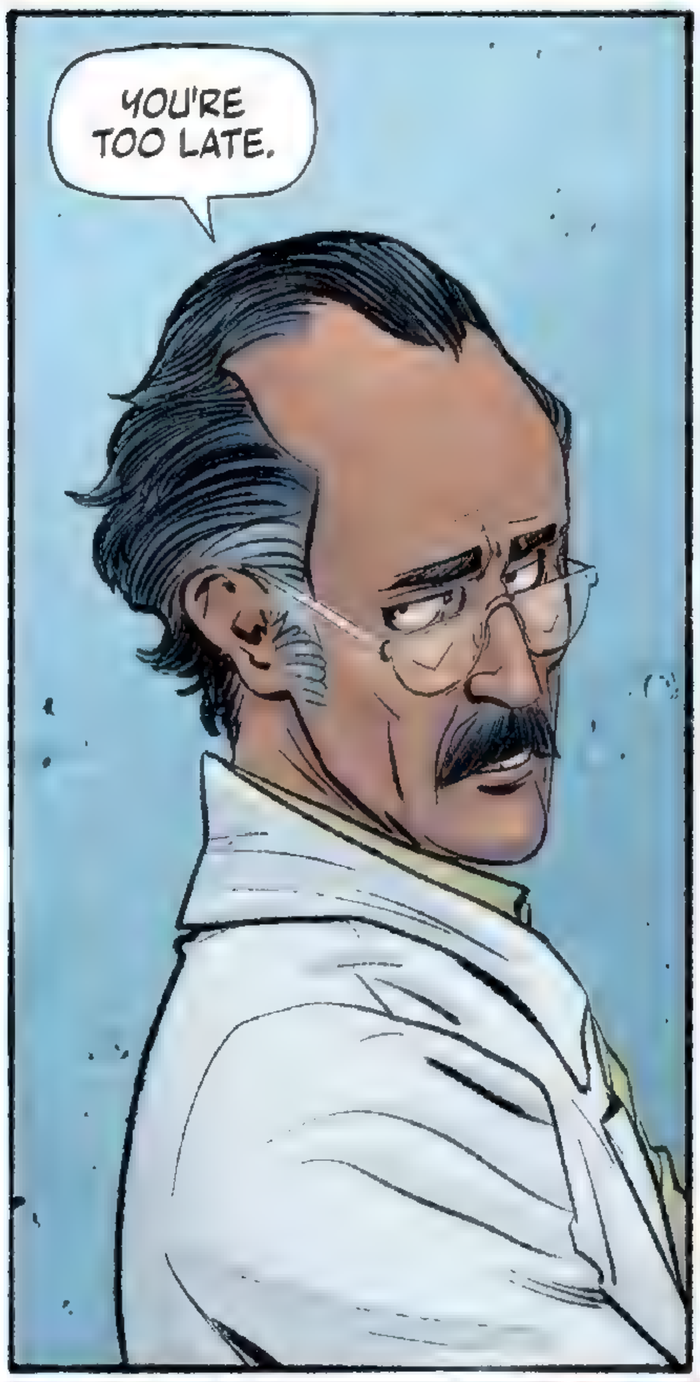

"...SHOW THE WORLD A MONSTER."

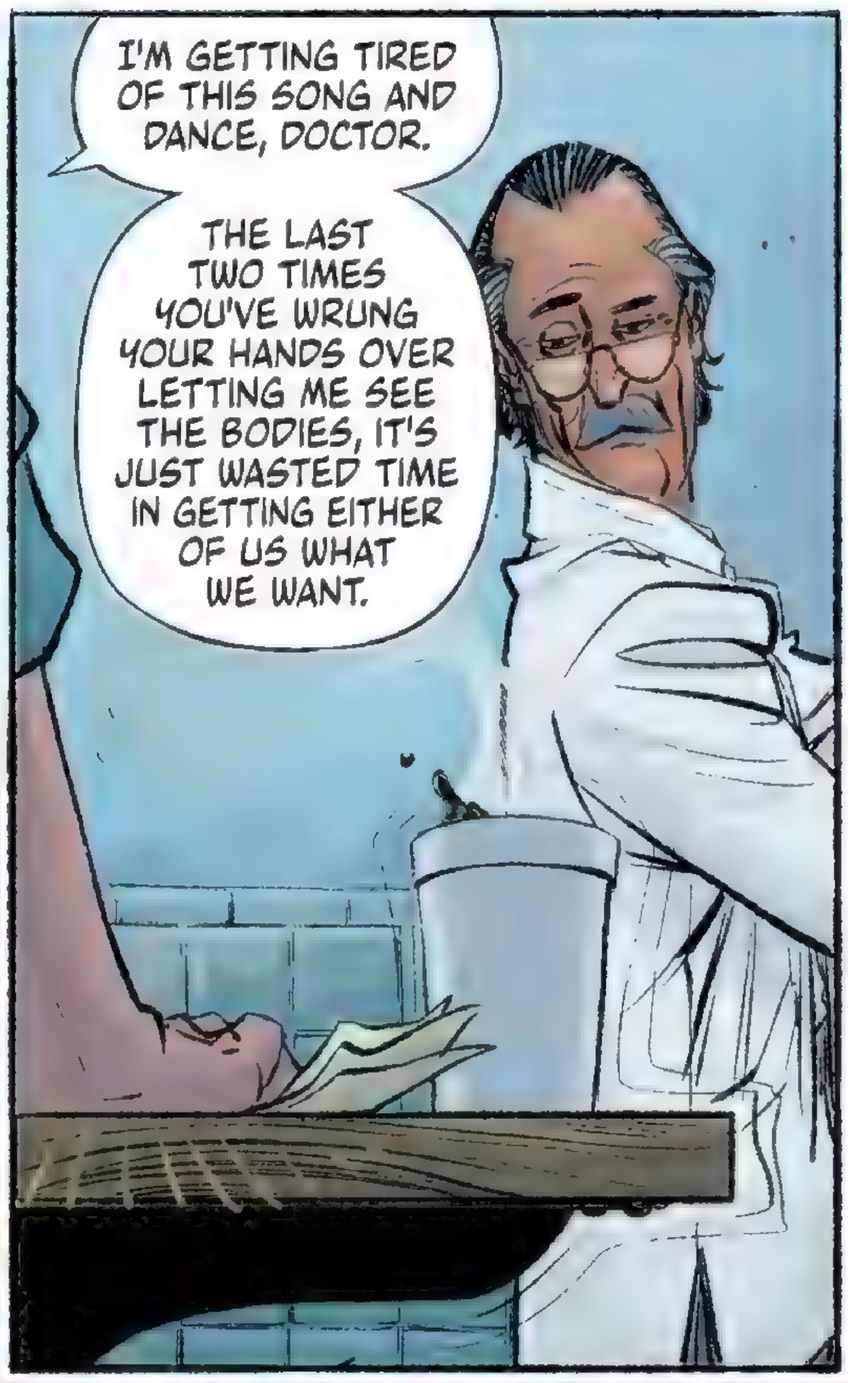

CREATURE. MONSTER. HE'S SURE ALL OF THAT, I GUESS.
IT IS NOT CRUEL. THE CREATURE.
IT TAKES THEM FOR THE RIVER. BUT IT DROWNS THEM. THE MOST PEACEFUL WAY.
WHAT THE HELL WOULD YOU KNOW?

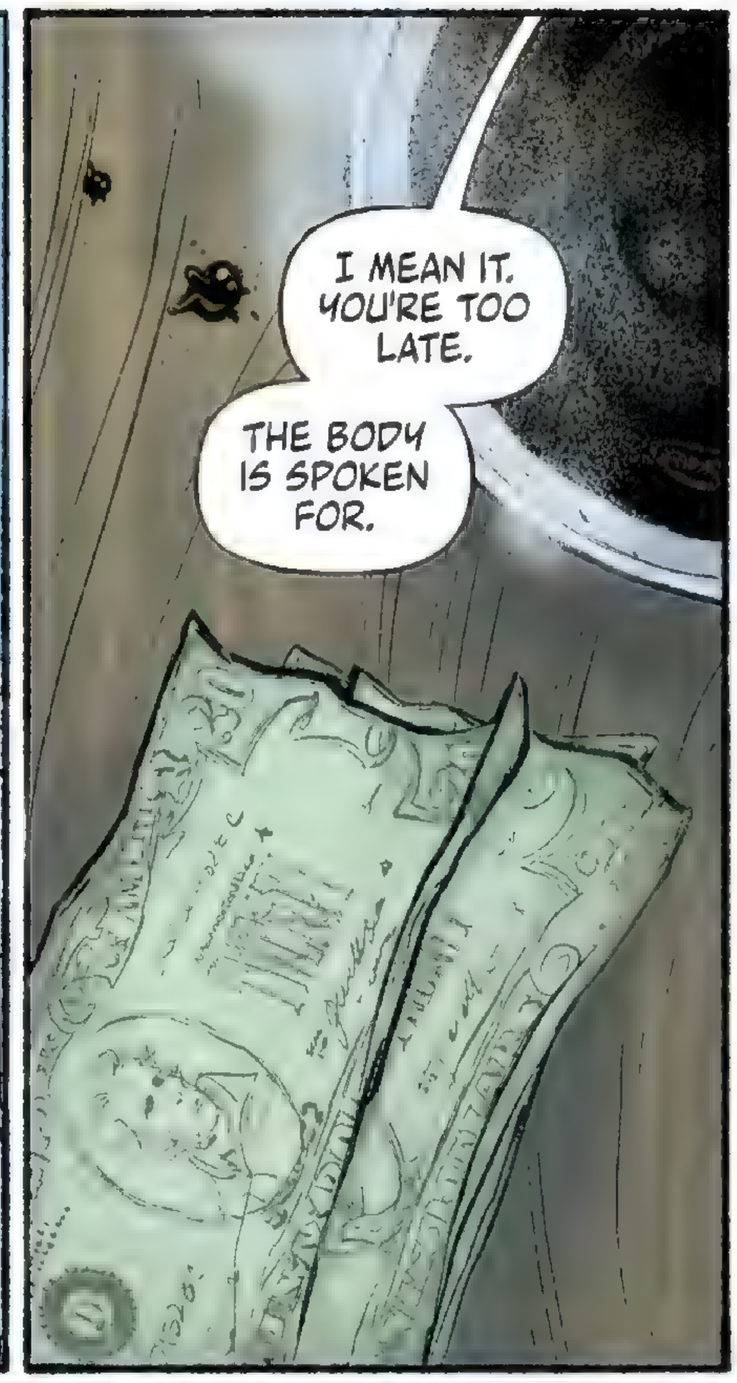
OH, GOOD. YOU AGAIN.
I BROUGHT YOU COFFEE.
DEPOSITO DE CADAVERES


I DON'T DRINK COFFEE.
I BROUGHT YOU CASH.
I DON'T DRINK THAT EITHER, BUT IT IS MORE PALATABLE.

COME ON, DON'T MESS ME AROUND AGAIN.
DID THEY BRING HIM IN YET?


YOU'RE TOO LATE.


I'M GETTING TIRED OF THIS SONG AND DANCE, DOCTOR.
THE LAST TWO TIMES YOU'VE WRUNG YOUR HANDS OVER LETTING ME SEE THE BODIES, IT'S JUST WASTED TIME IN GETTING EITHER OF US WHAT WE WANT.

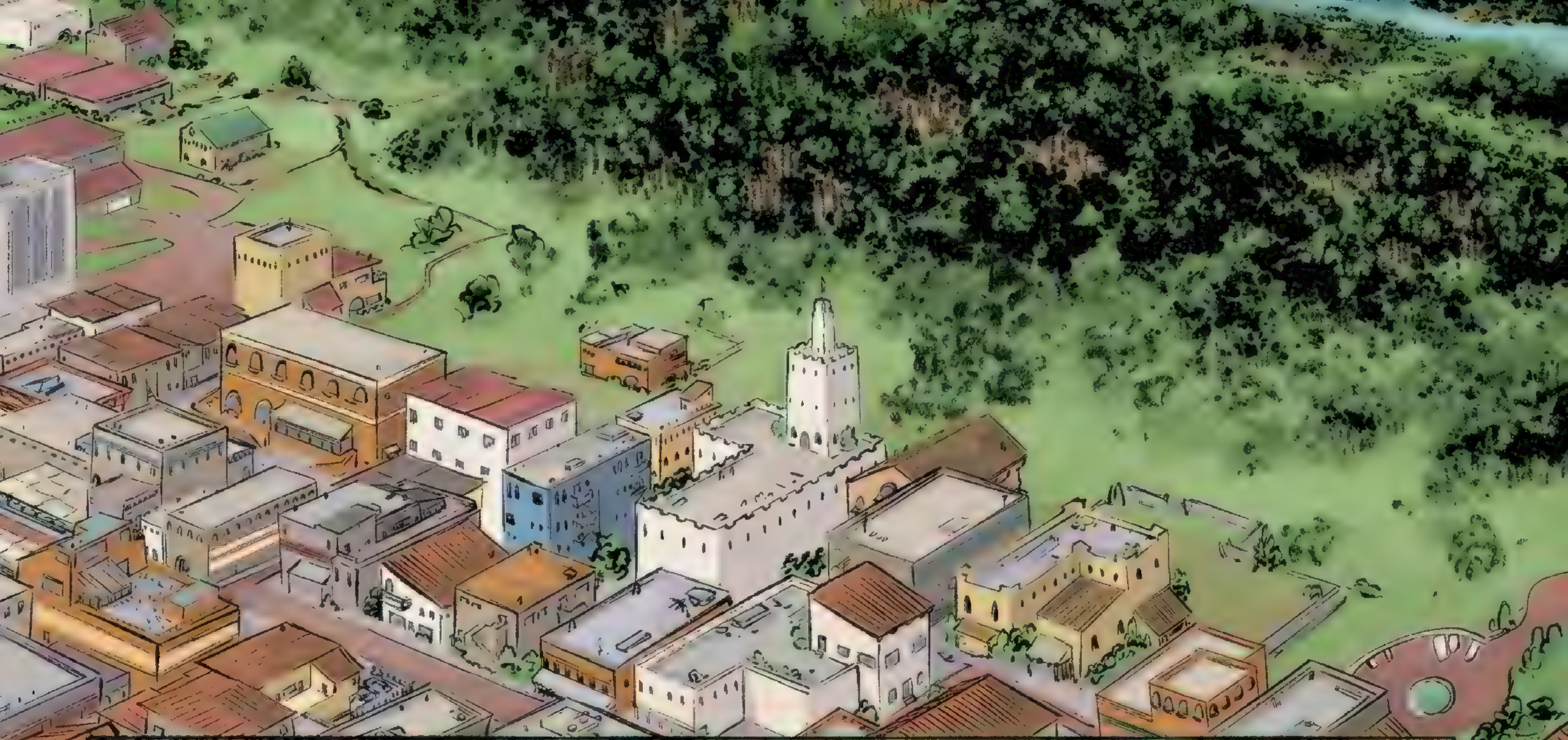

I MEAN IT. YOU'RE TOO LATE.
THE BODY IS SPOKEN FOR.

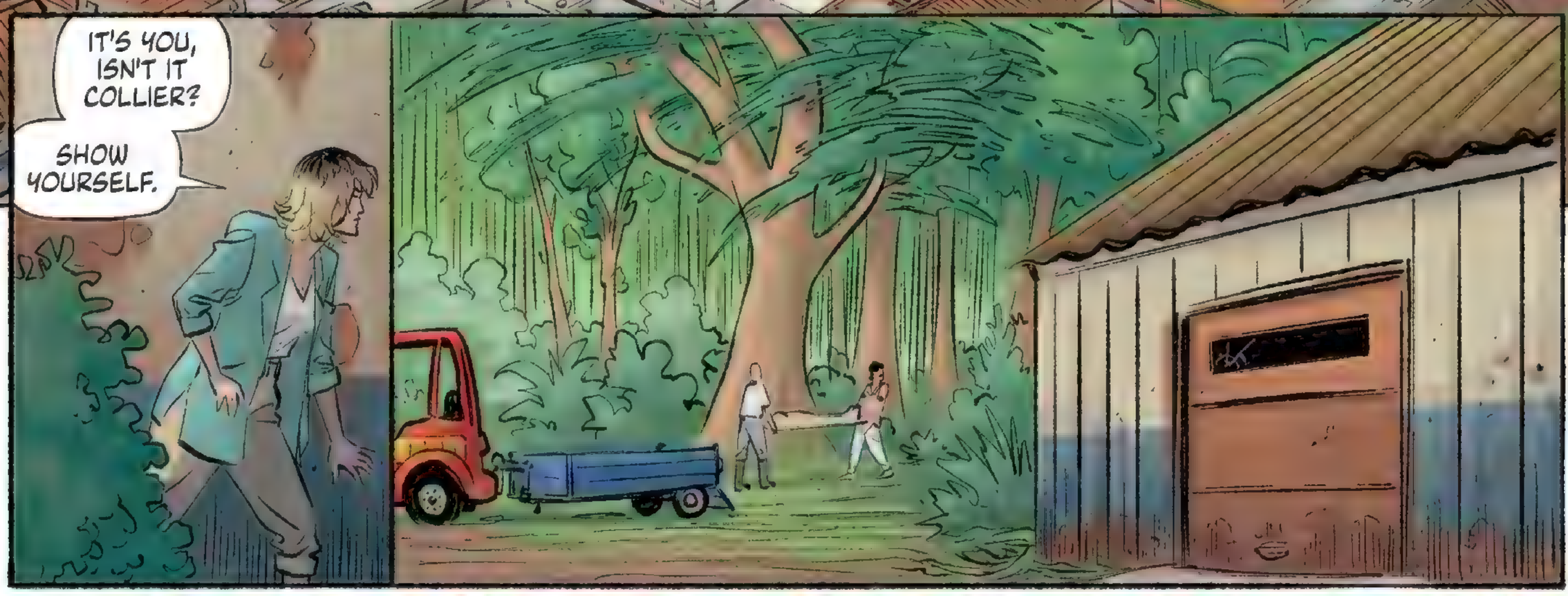
IT IS SPOKEN FOR WITH A BIGGER BRIBE THAN THIS.
WHO?

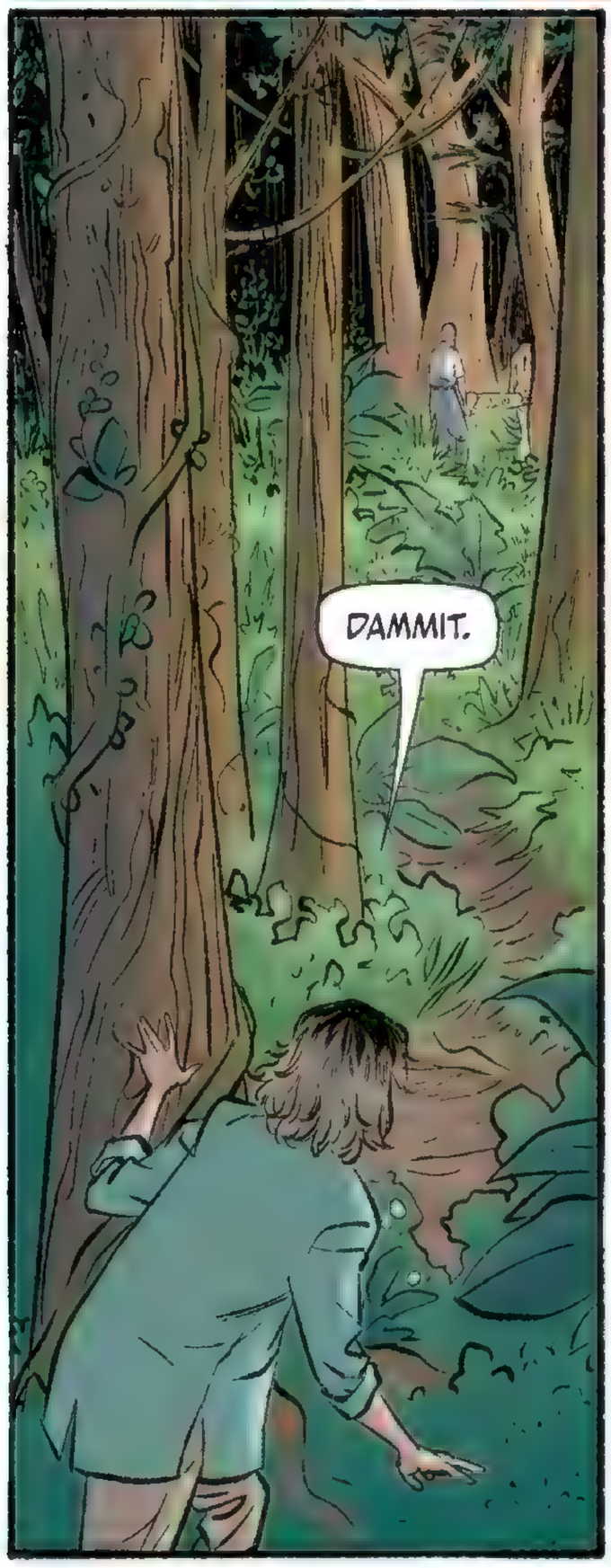
ANOTHER AMERICAN? SHAVED HEAD?
YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT ME TO SAY, DO YOU?
I HAVE SOME SCRUPLES TOWARDS MY CLIENTS.

BUT THE BODY WILL BE COLLECTED THIS AFTERNOON.

WAIT, WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT COLLIER...
...BUT I BET YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS.




IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT COLLIER?
SHOW YOURSELF.


DAMMIT.

IT IS SLOW GOING, CARRYING A CORPSE THROUGH THE AMAZON. IT MAKES THEM EASY TO TRACK.

THEY LEAD ME ON INVISIBLE PATHS THROUGH THE TREES WHICH TAKE US FARTHER AND FARTHER FROM THE TOWN.

AND THEN THEY SPEAK.
RIGHT. LET'S GET THIS POOR SOUL UP AND ONTO THE BOAT.

IT ISN'T HIM.
IT ISN'T COLLIER.

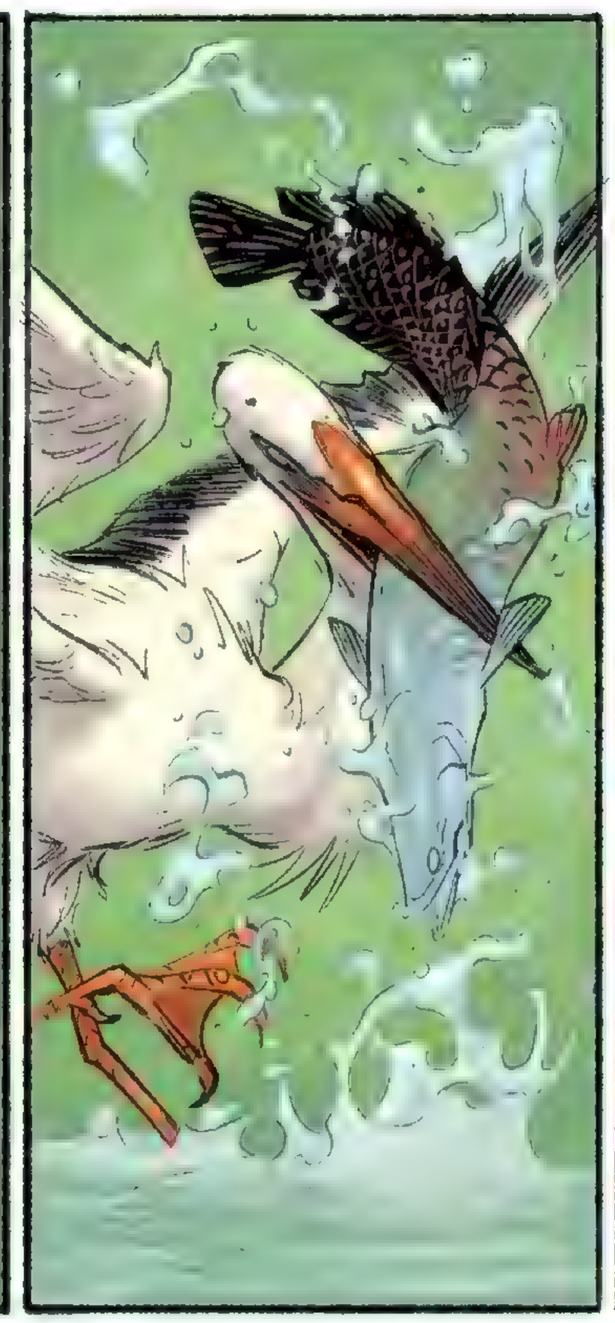
THESE MEN ARE NOTHING TO ME.

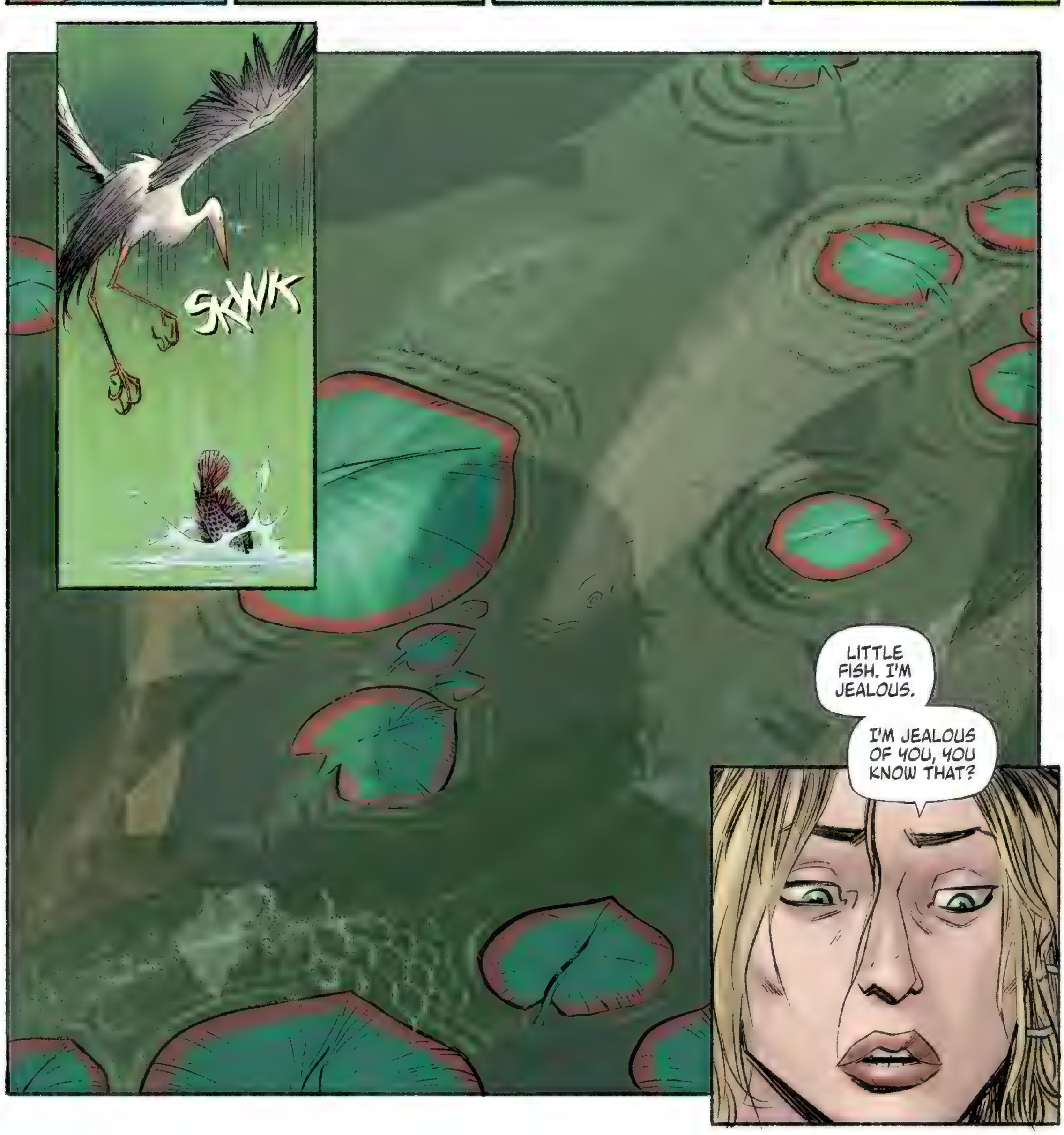
PERHAPS THEY'RE CONNECTED IN SOME WAY. PERHAPS CONSPIRATORS...
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. WITH AN ENGINE'S ROAR, THE MEN--AND THE BODY--SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS LIKE SMOKE.

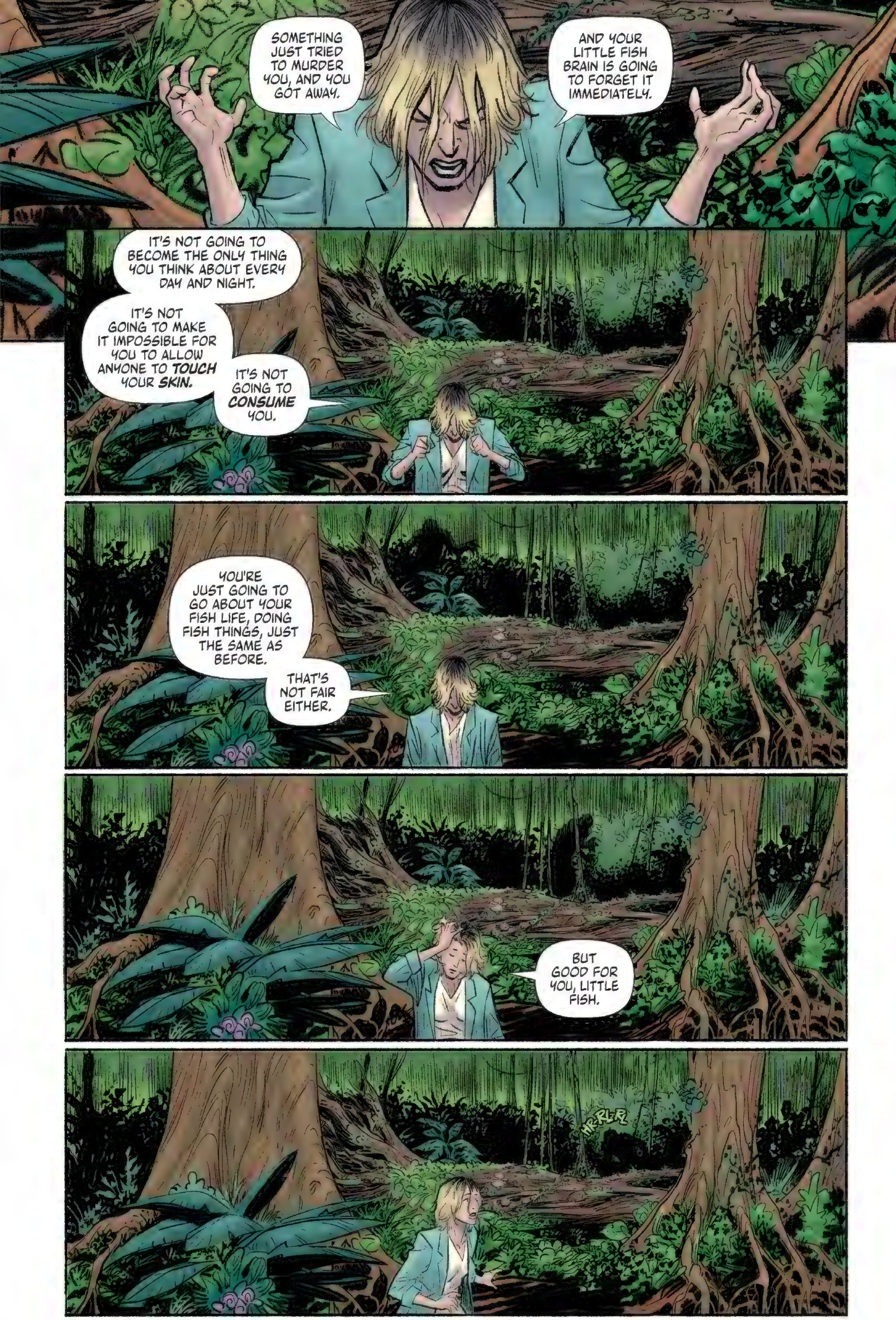
ALL THIS, AND I'M NOWHERE.

DAMMIT. DAMMIT, IT ISN'T FAIR!

SKWK

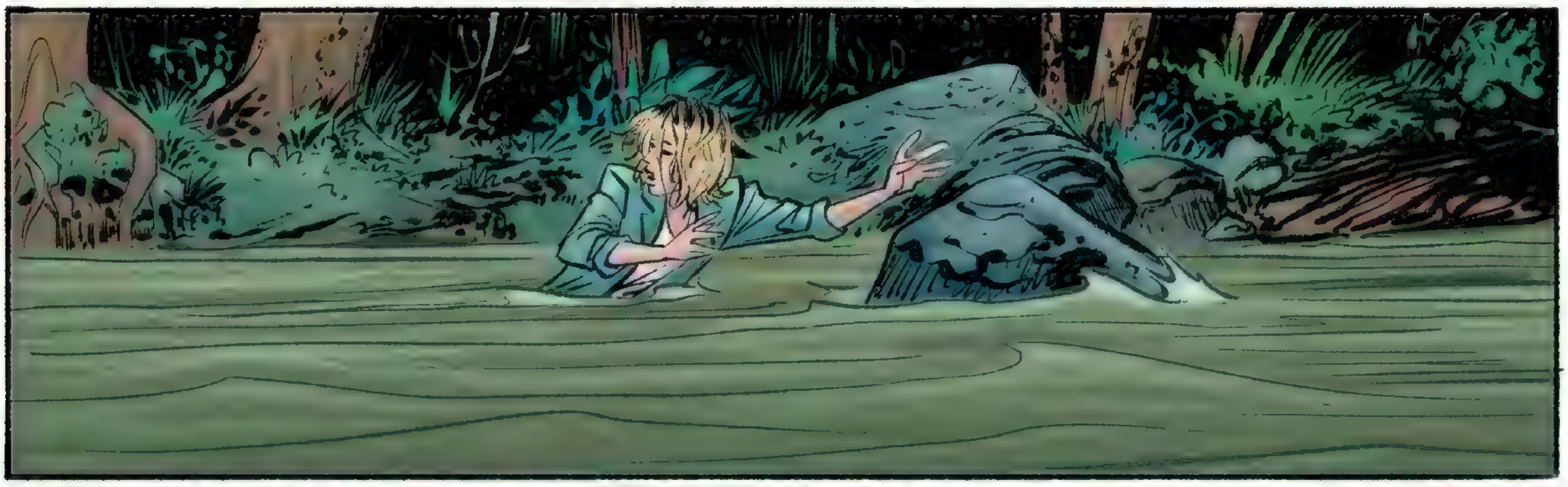


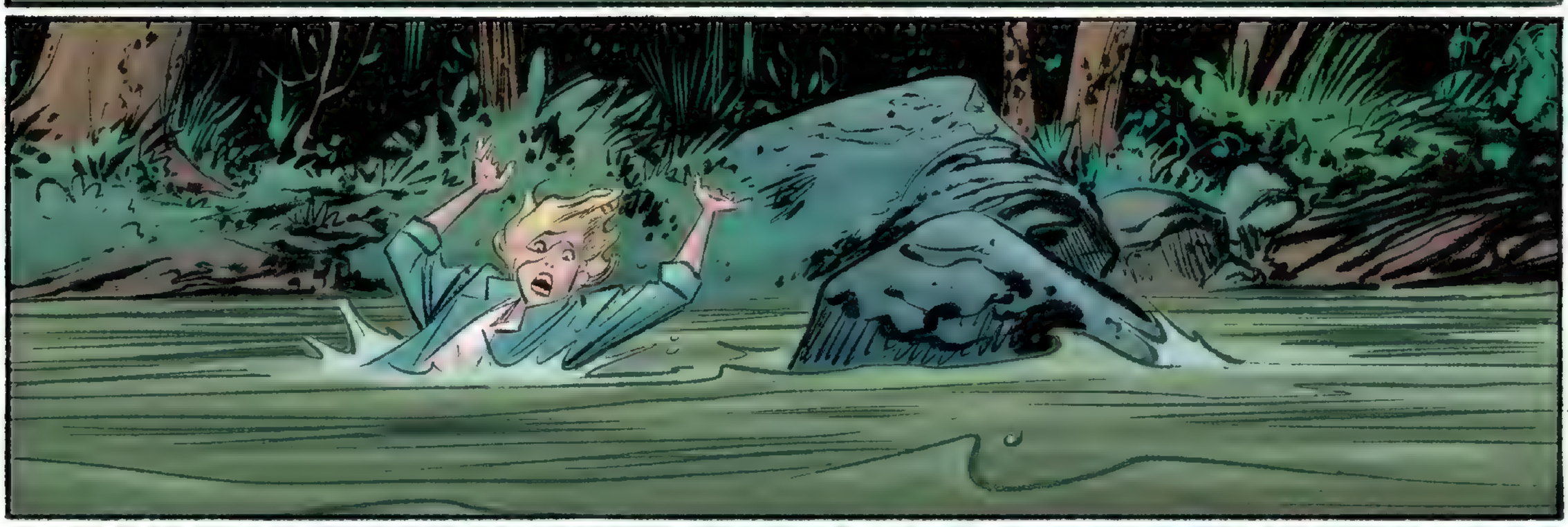

SKWK
LITTLE FISH. I'M JEALOUS.
I'M JEALOUS OF YOU, YOU KNOW THAT?

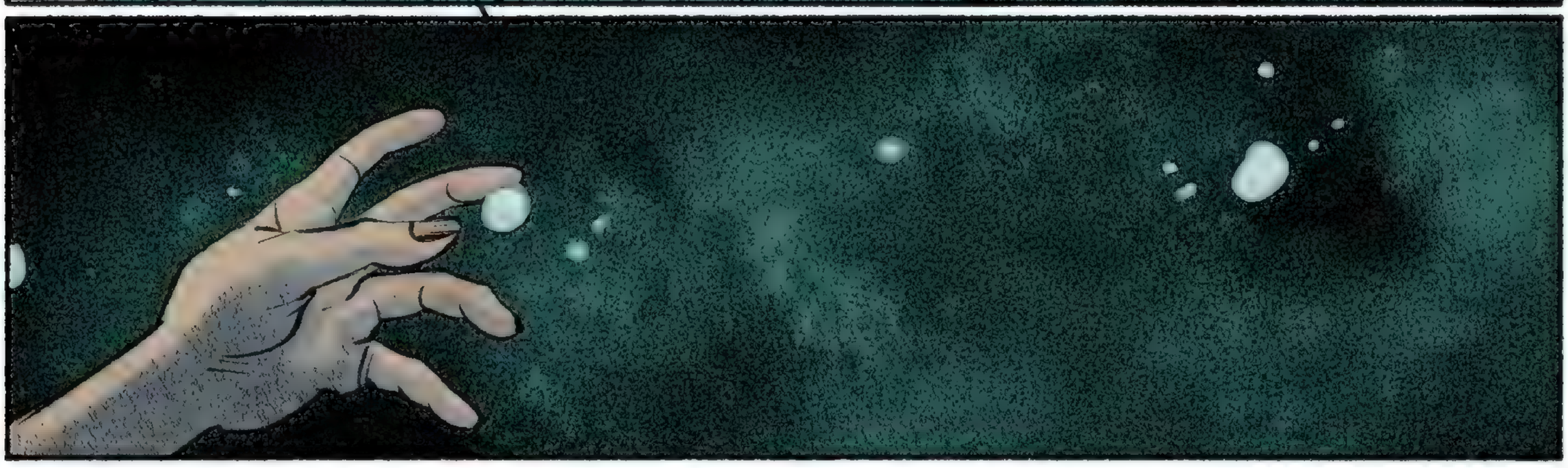

SOMETHING JUST TRIED TO MURDER YOU, AND YOU GOT AWAY.
AND YOUR LITTLE FISH BRAIN IS GOING TO FORGET IT IMMEDIATELY.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BECOME THE ONLY THING YOU THINK ABOUT EVERY DAY AND NIGHT.
IT'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ALLOW ANYONE TO TOUCH YOUR SKIN.
IT'S NOT GOING TO CONSUME YOU.
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GO ABOUT YOUR FISH LIFE, DOING FISH THINGS, JUST THE SAME AS BEFORE.
THAT'S NOT FAIR EITHER.
BUT GOOD FOR YOU, LITTLE FISH.
HR.RL.RL

WHO'S THERE?!
I CAN HEAR YOU.
I CAN HEAR YOU!
HR-RL-R

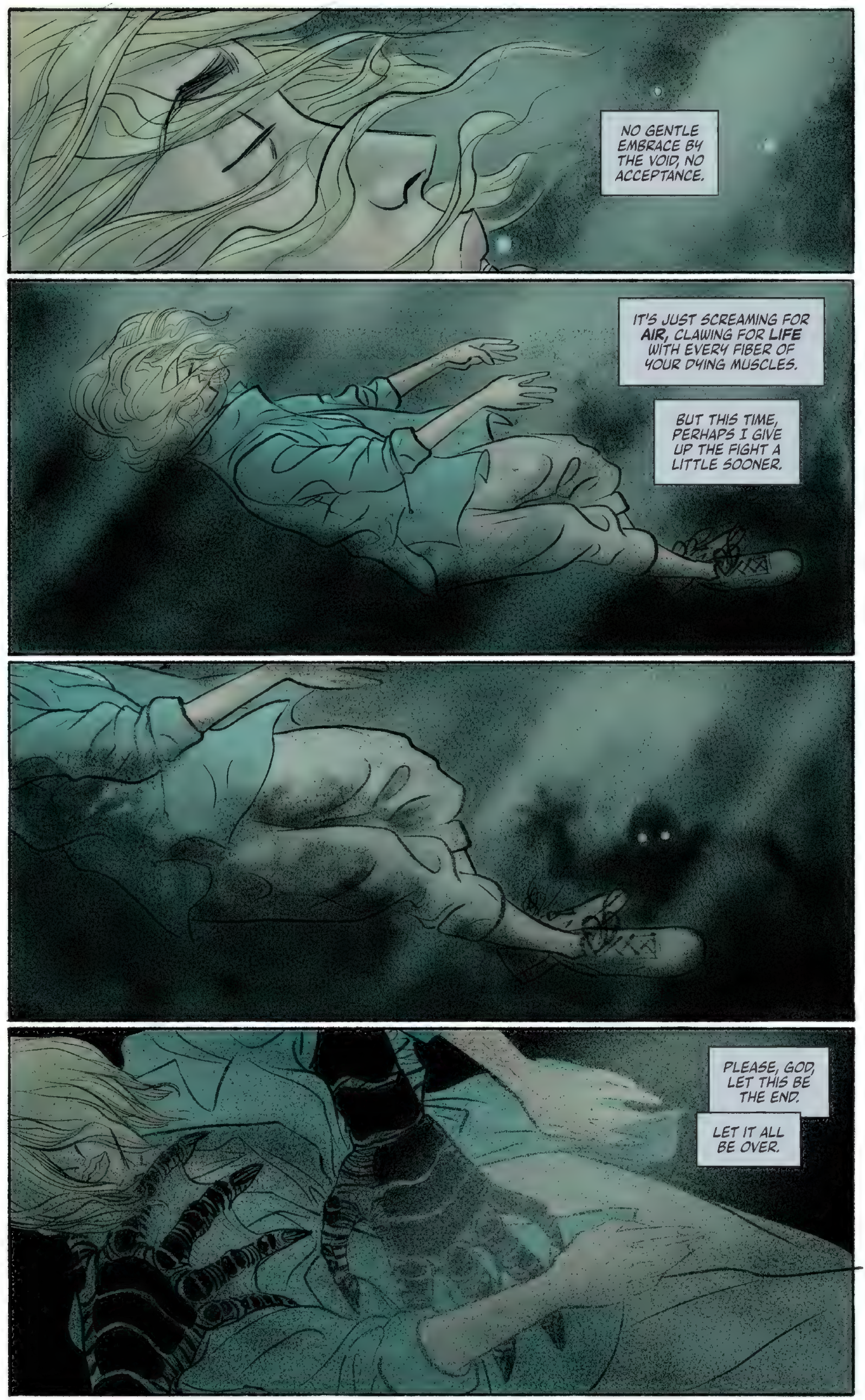
HERLK





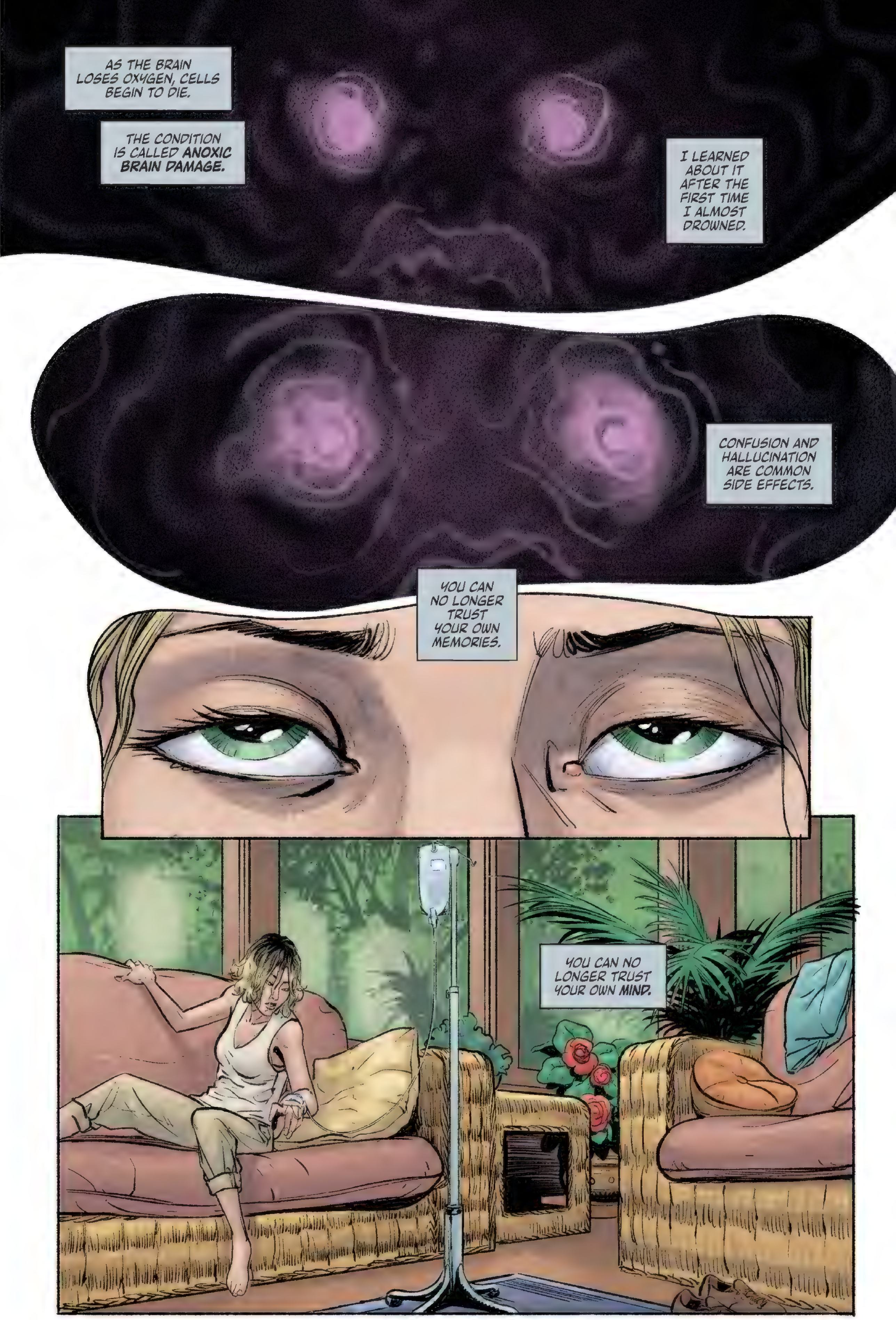


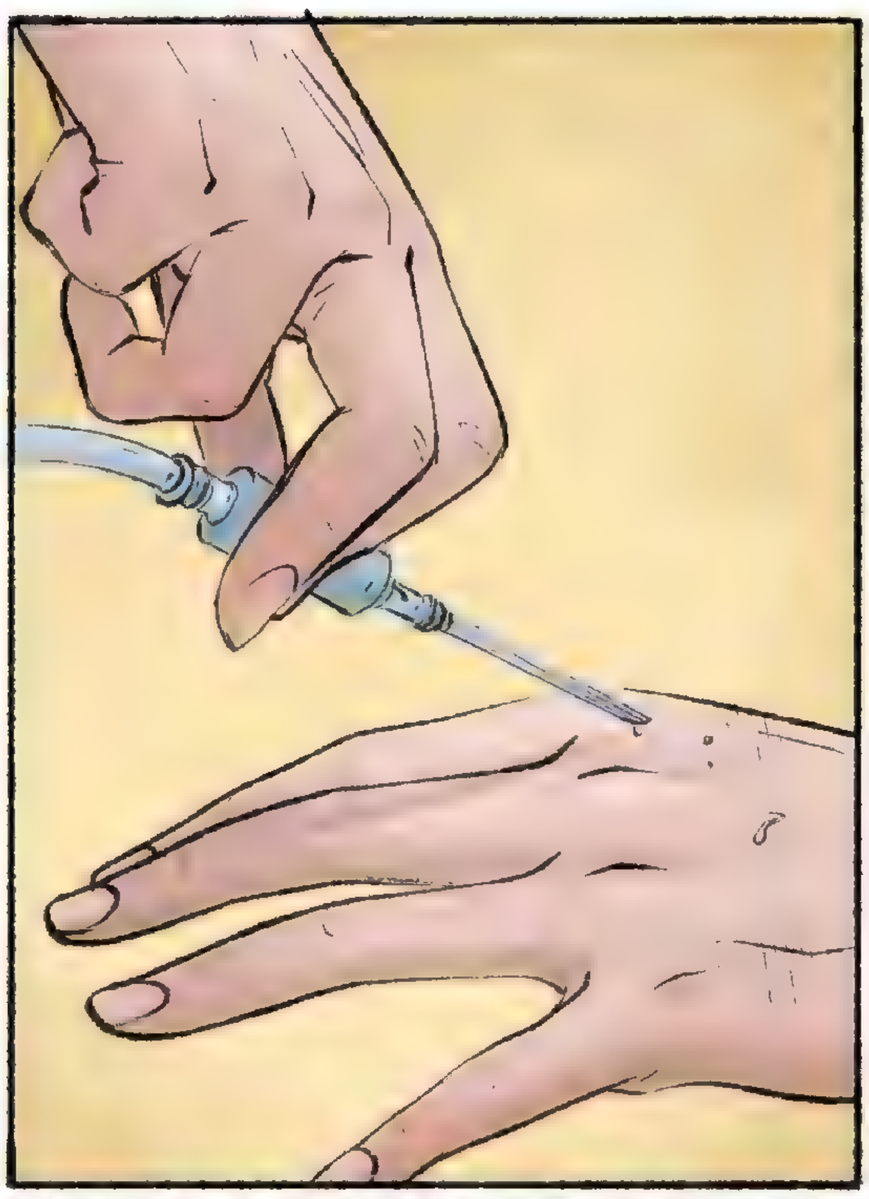
THERE'S NO SENSE OF RETURNING TO THE WOMB.

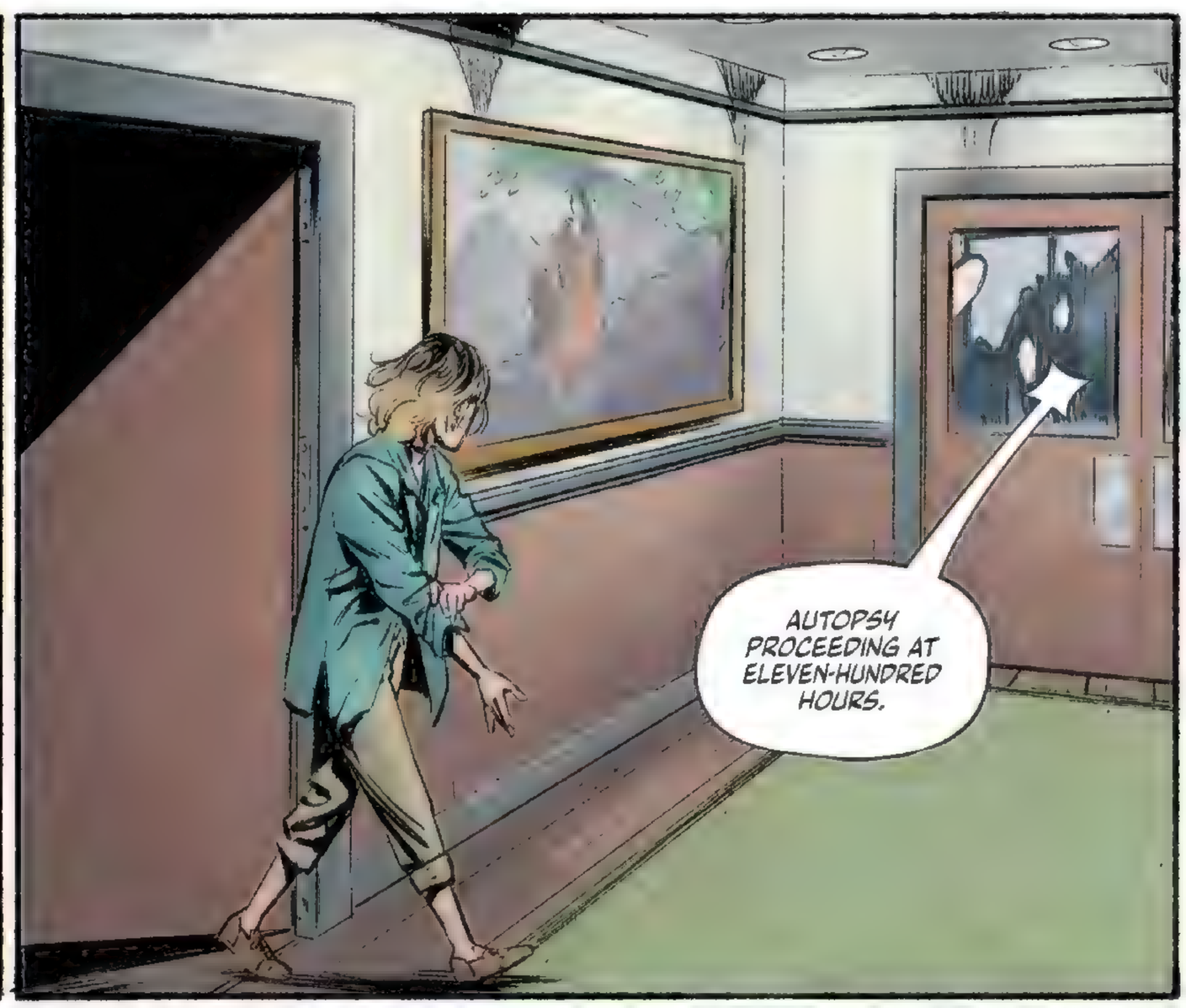

NO GENTLE EMBRACE BY THE VOID, NO ACCEPTANCE.
IT'S JUST SCREAMING FOR **AIR**, CLAWING FOR **LIFE** WITH EVERY FIBER OF YOUR DYING MUSCLES.
BUT THIS TIME, PERHAPS I GIVE UP THE FIGHT A LITTLE SOONER.
PLEASE, GOD, LET THIS BE THE END.
LET IT ALL BE OVER.

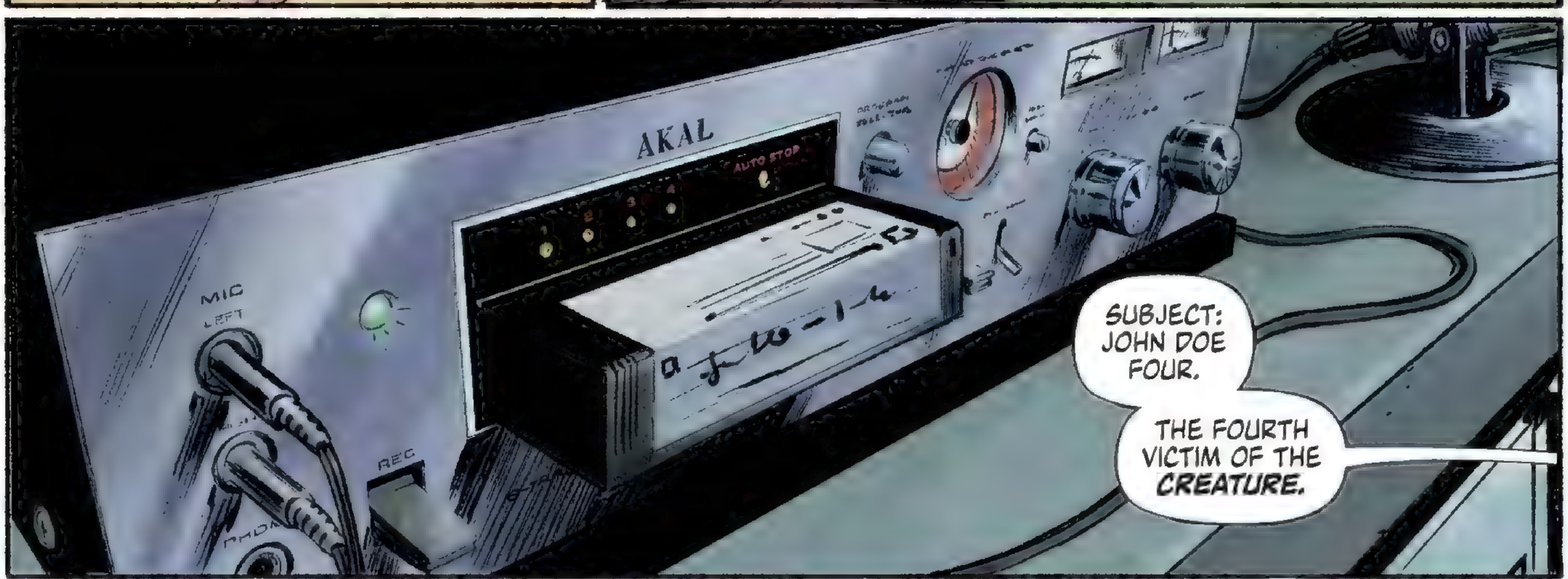
LET THIS BE THE LAST DREAM.
THE FINAL NIGHTMARE.

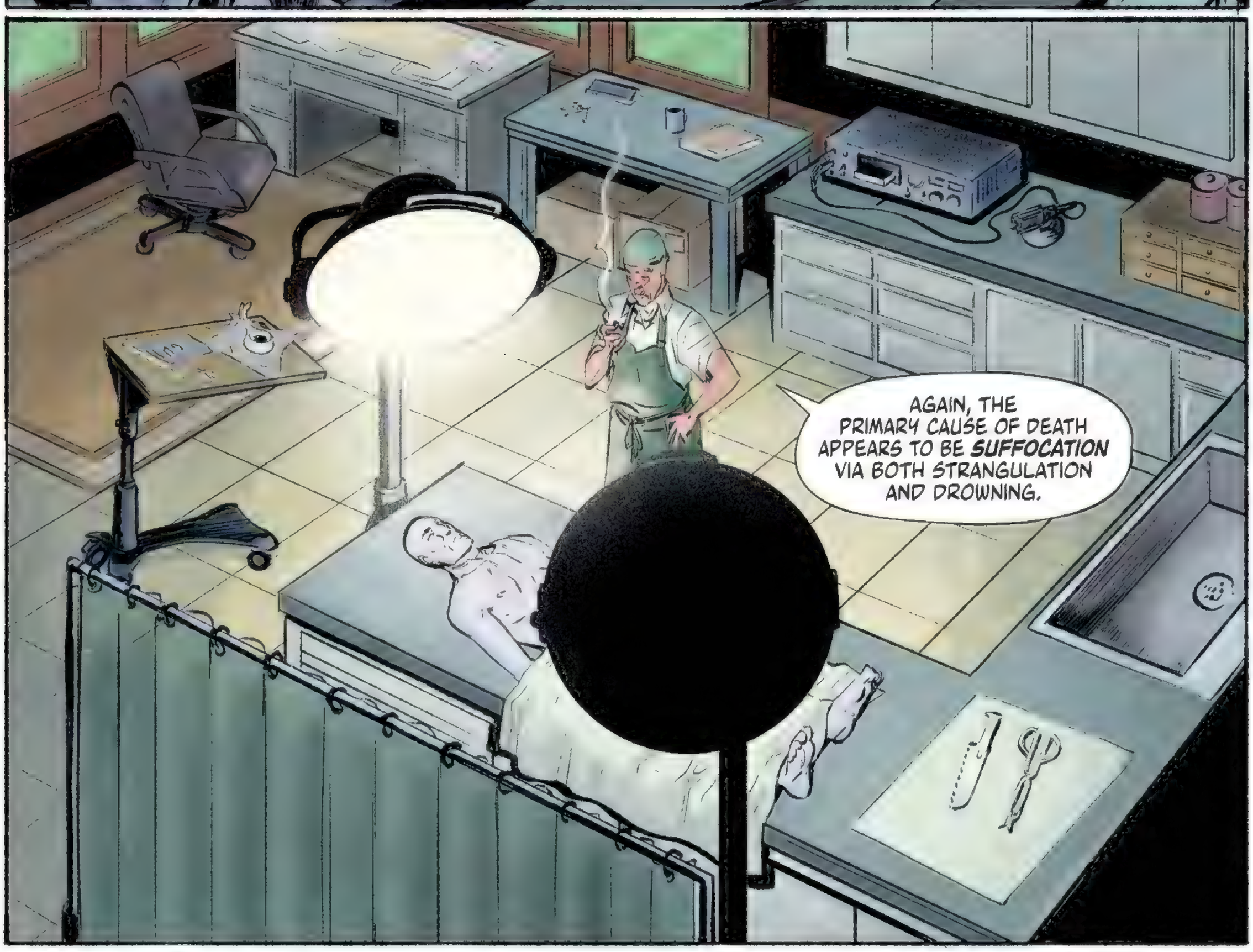
LET THIS BE THE LAST TIME I'M FORCED TO STARE INTO MONSTROUS EYES.


AS THE BRAIN LOSES OXYGEN, CELLS BEGIN TO DIE.
THE CONDITION IS CALLED ANOXIC BRAIN DAMAGE.
I LEARNED ABOUT IT AFTER THE FIRST TIME I ALMOST DROWNED.
CONFUSION AND HALLUCINATION ARE COMMON SIDE EFFECTS.
YOU CAN NO LONGER TRUST YOUR OWN MEMORIES.
YOU CAN NO LONGER TRUST YOUR OWN MIND.

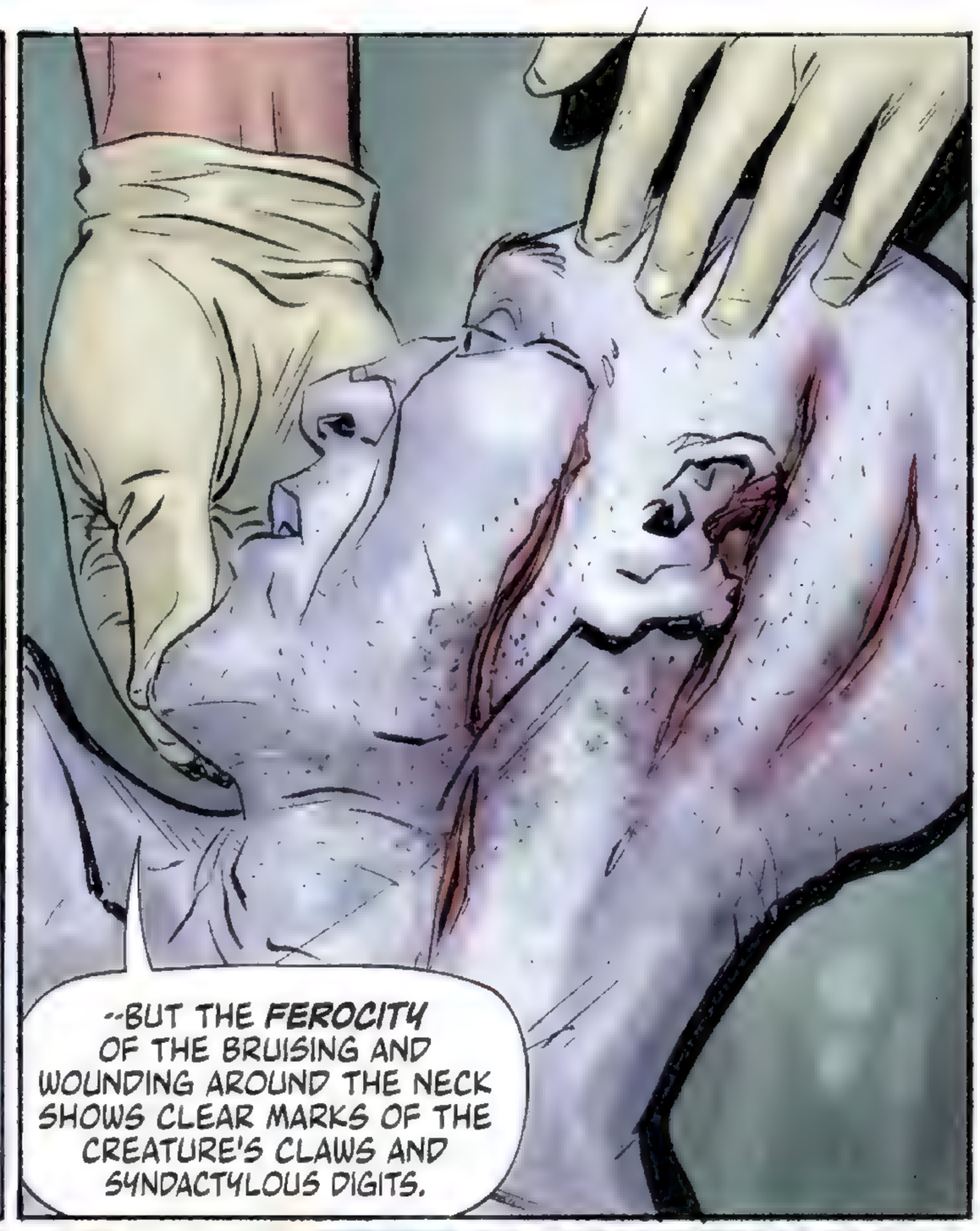


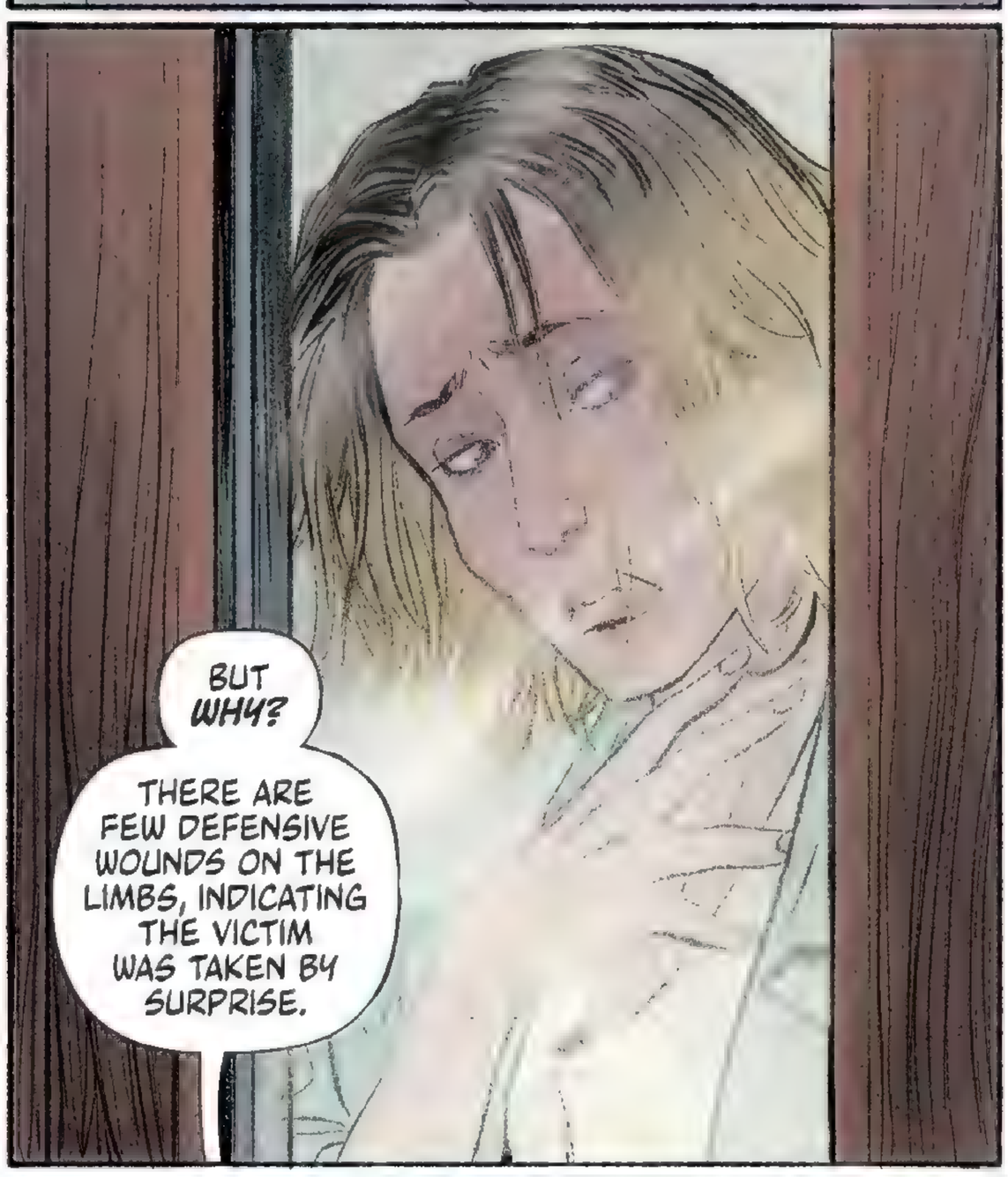

AUTOPSY PROCEEDING AT ELEVEN-HUNDRED HOURS.


AKAI
AUTO STOP
MIC
LEFT
REC
SUBJECT: JOHN DOE FOUR.
THE FOURTH VICTIM OF THE CREATURE.


AGAIN, THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF DEATH APPEARS TO BE SUFFOCATION VIA BOTH STRANGULATION AND DROWNING.

THE LUNGS SOUND FULL, SO THE VICTIM WAS STILL BREATHING WHEN SUBMERGED--


--BUT THE FEROCITY OF THE BRUISING AND WOUNDING AROUND THE NECK SHOWS CLEAR MARKS OF THE CREATURE'S CLAWS AND SYNDACTYLOUS DIGITS.

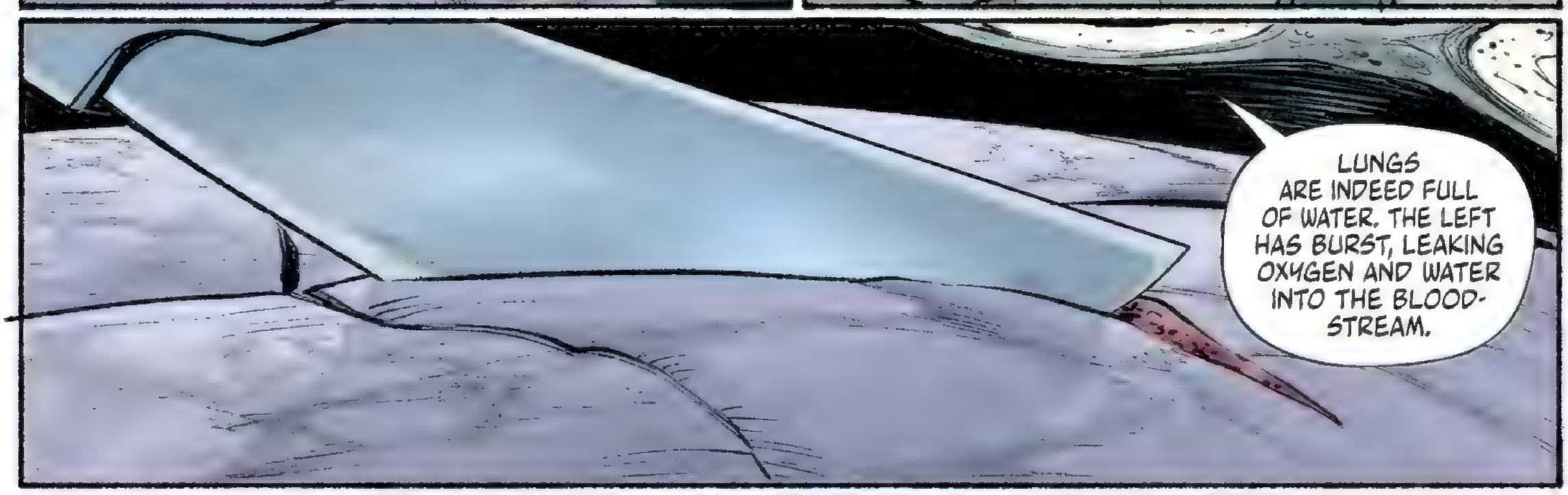

BUT WHY?
THERE ARE FEW DEFENSIVE WOUNDS ON THE LIMBS, INDICATING THE VICTIM WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

WHAT HAS LED THE CREATURE TO SUCH VIOLENCE?
COULD IT BE THAT THE DEFORESTATION OF THE RAINFOREST HAS PROVOKED THE CREATURE TO RESPOND IN KIND?

OR WAS THE CREATURE ALWAYS INNATELY SAVAGE, AND INCREASING PROXIMITY TO HUMANITY IS MAKING IT MORE NOTICEABLE?
OR IT ISN'T A MYTHICAL "CREATURE" COMMITTING THESE KILLINGS AT ALL, BUT RATHER THE AMERICAN SERIAL KILLER DARWIN COLLIER.
THE ONE WHO MOVED HERE SIX MONTHS AGO.
HMM.
PROCEEDING WITH FIRST INCISION.

IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT, MY DEAR. YOU REMEMBER WHO I AM? WHERE YOU ARE?
DOCTOR EDWIN THOMPSON. THIS IS YOUR LAB.
YOUR ASSISTANT FOUND ME HALF-DEAD ON THE BANK OF THE AMAZON RIVER.

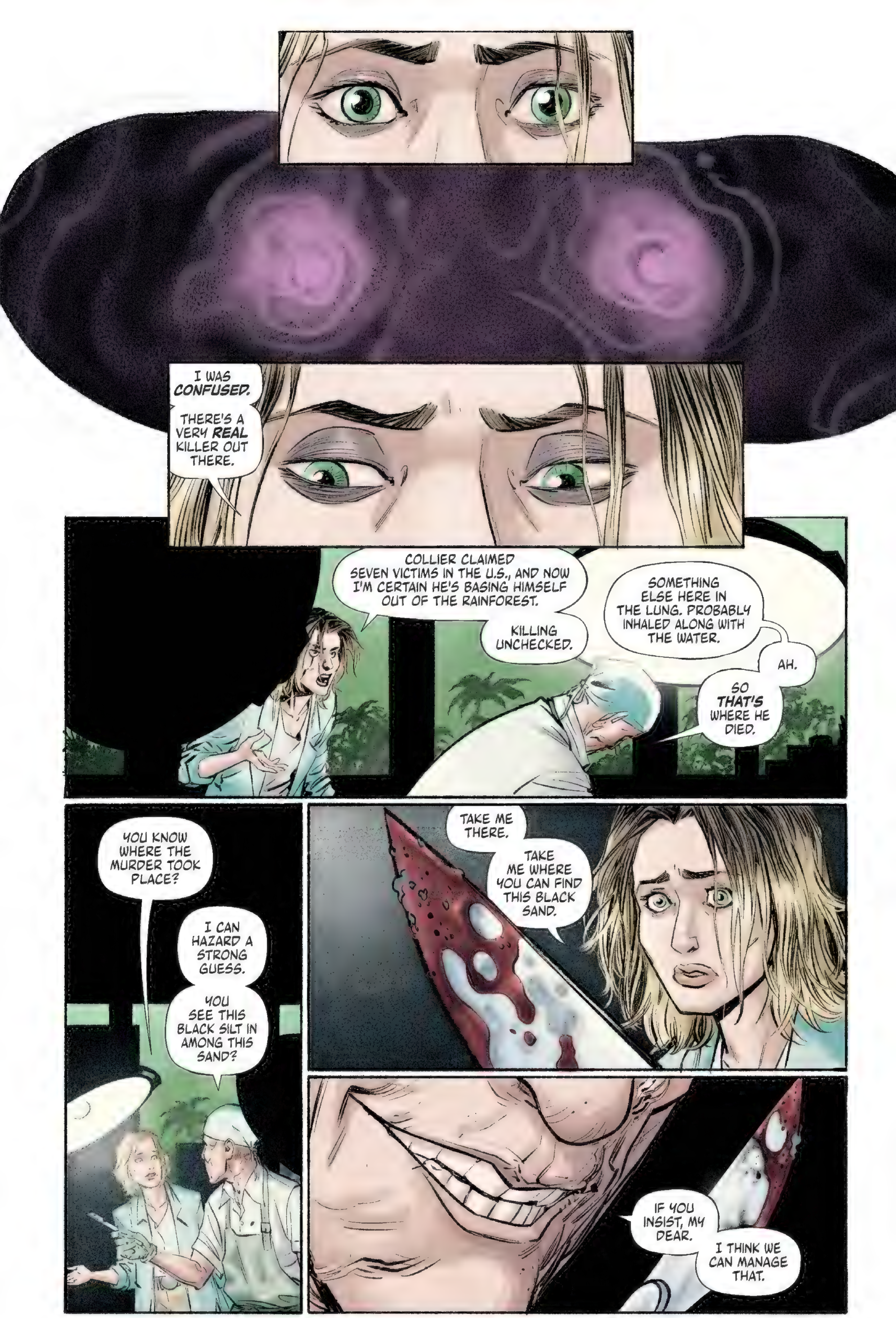
THAT'S GOOD. YOU SEEMED IN AND OUT OF IT LAST TIME YOU WOKE.
CHRISTIANO WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE YOU SO RECOVERED. I THINK HE'S TAKEN A SHINE TO YOU.

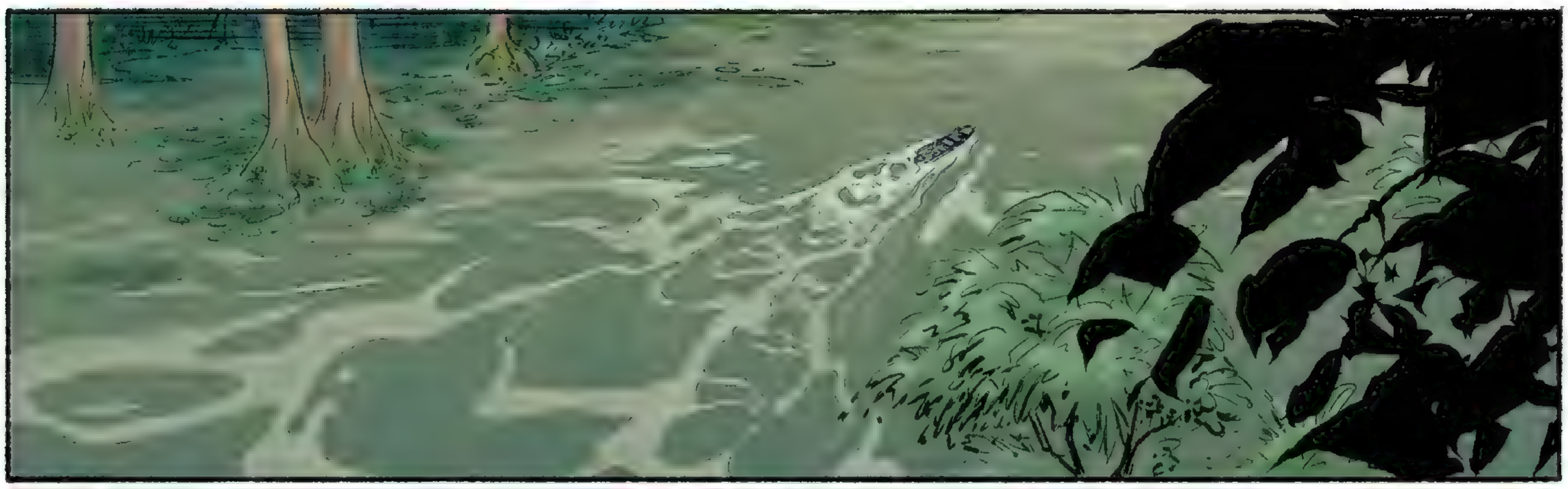

LUNGS ARE INDEED FULL OF WATER. THE LEFT HAS BURST, LEAKING OXYGEN AND WATER INTO THE BLOOD-STREAM.

YOU STOLE THESE CORPSES. FROM THE MORGUE IN TOWN.
I BOUGHT THEM.
AND ONLY IN THE HOPE OF UNDERSTANDING WHY THIS IS HAPPENING.

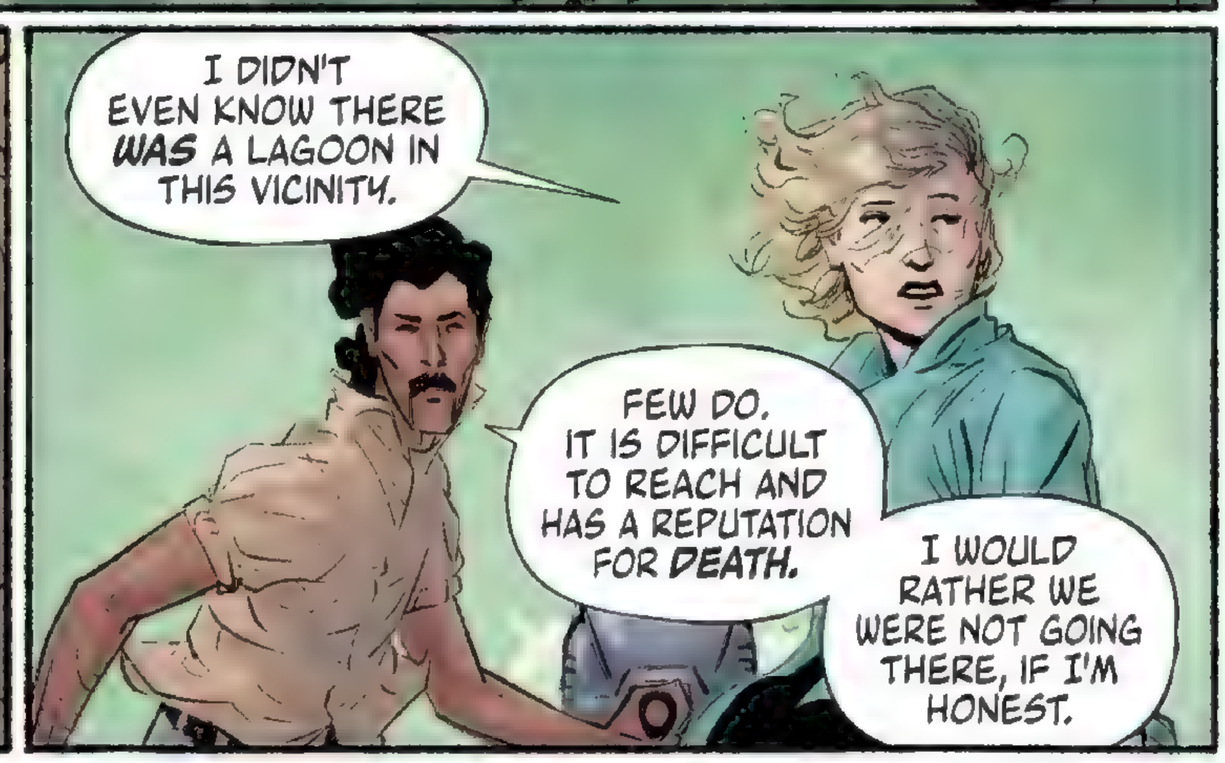
YOU REALLY BELIEVE A "CREATURE" DID THIS.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE OUT HERE RESEARCHING.

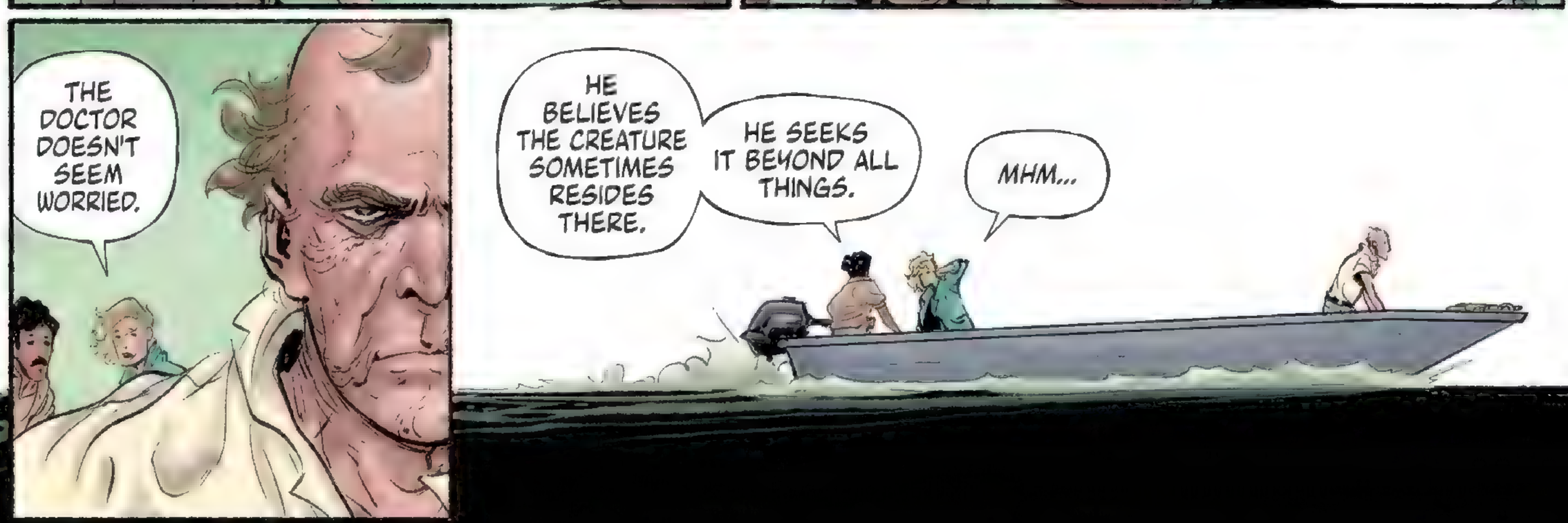
WELL... YES. YOU TOLD ME YOU SAW IT.
LAST TIME YOU WOKE.


I WAS CONFUSED.
THERE'S A VERY REAL KILLER OUT THERE.
COLLIER CLAIMED SEVEN VICTIMS IN THE U.S., AND NOW I'M CERTAIN HE'S BASING HIMSELF OUT OF THE RAINFOREST.
KILLING UNCHECKED.
SOMETHING ELSE HERE IN THE LUNG. PROBABLY INHALED ALONG WITH THE WATER.
AH.
SO THAT'S WHERE HE DIED.
YOU KNOW WHERE THE MURDER TOOK PLACE?
I CAN HAZARD A STRONG GUESS.
YOU SEE THIS BLACK SILT IN AMONG THIS SAND?
TAKE ME THERE.
TAKE ME WHERE YOU CAN FIND THIS BLACK SAND.
IF YOU INSIST, MY DEAR.
I THINK WE CAN MANAGE THAT.

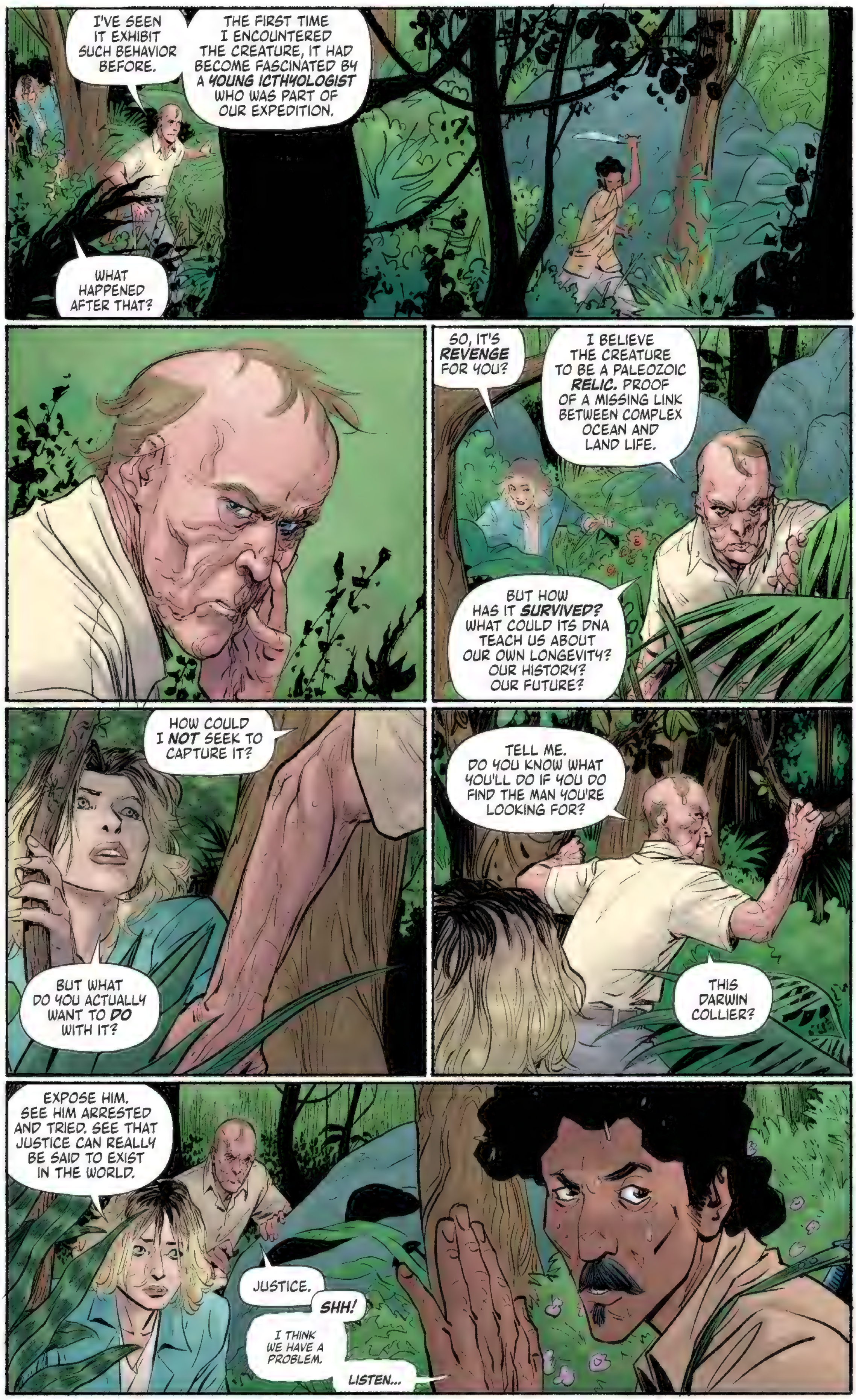


CHRISTIANO, RIGHT?
UH-- THANK YOU FOR...YOU KNOW, SAVING ME AND STUFF.


I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WAS A LAGOON IN THIS VICINITY.
FEW DO. IT IS DIFFICULT TO REACH AND HAS A REPUTATION FOR DEATH.
I WOULD RATHER WE WERE NOT GOING THERE, IF I'M HONEST.


THE DOCTOR DOESN'T SEEM WORRIED.
HE BELIEVES THE CREATURE SOMETIMES RESIDES THERE.
HE SEEKS IT BEYOND ALL THINGS.
MHM...

"...THE CREATURE AGAIN. GREAT.
"SO NOW IT'S STALKING ME, HUH?"


I'VE SEEN IT EXHIBIT SUCH BEHAVIOR BEFORE.
THE FIRST TIME I ENCOUNTERED THE CREATURE, IT HAD BECOME FASCINATED BY A YOUNG ICTHYOLOGIST WHO WAS PART OF OUR EXPEDITION.
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
SO, IT'S REVENGE FOR YOU?
I BELIEVE THE CREATURE TO BE A PALEOZOIC RELIC. PROOF OF A MISSING LINK BETWEEN COMPLEX OCEAN AND LAND LIFE.
BUT HOW HAS IT SURVIVED? WHAT COULD ITS DNA TEACH US ABOUT OUR OWN LONGEVITY? OUR HISTORY? OUR FUTURE?
HOW COULD I NOT SEEK TO CAPTURE IT?
BUT WHAT DO YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO DO WITH IT?
TELL ME. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'LL DO IF YOU DO FIND THE MAN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
THIS DARWIN COLLIER?
EXPOSE HIM. SEE HIM ARRESTED AND TRIED. SEE THAT JUSTICE CAN REALLY BE SAID TO EXIST IN THE WORLD.
JUSTICE.
SHH!
I THINK WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
LISTEN...

"...NARCOS."
WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
THE COCAINE LABS ARE TWO OR THREE MILES NORTH.
THEY MUST BE HERE FOR HIM. HE'S REALLY HERE...
COLLIER!
COLLIER, ARE YOU THERE?

PAULO.
I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T ON SPEAKING TERMS NO MORE...
...NOT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR OL' EDUARDO.
IT'S HIM.

EASY.
I WAS HIRED TO TURN YOU BUNCHA FARMBOY NARCOS INTO A UNIT THAT COULD FUNCTION LIKE MARINES.

THAT MEANS DISCIPLINE.
EDUARDO GOT DISCIPLINED.

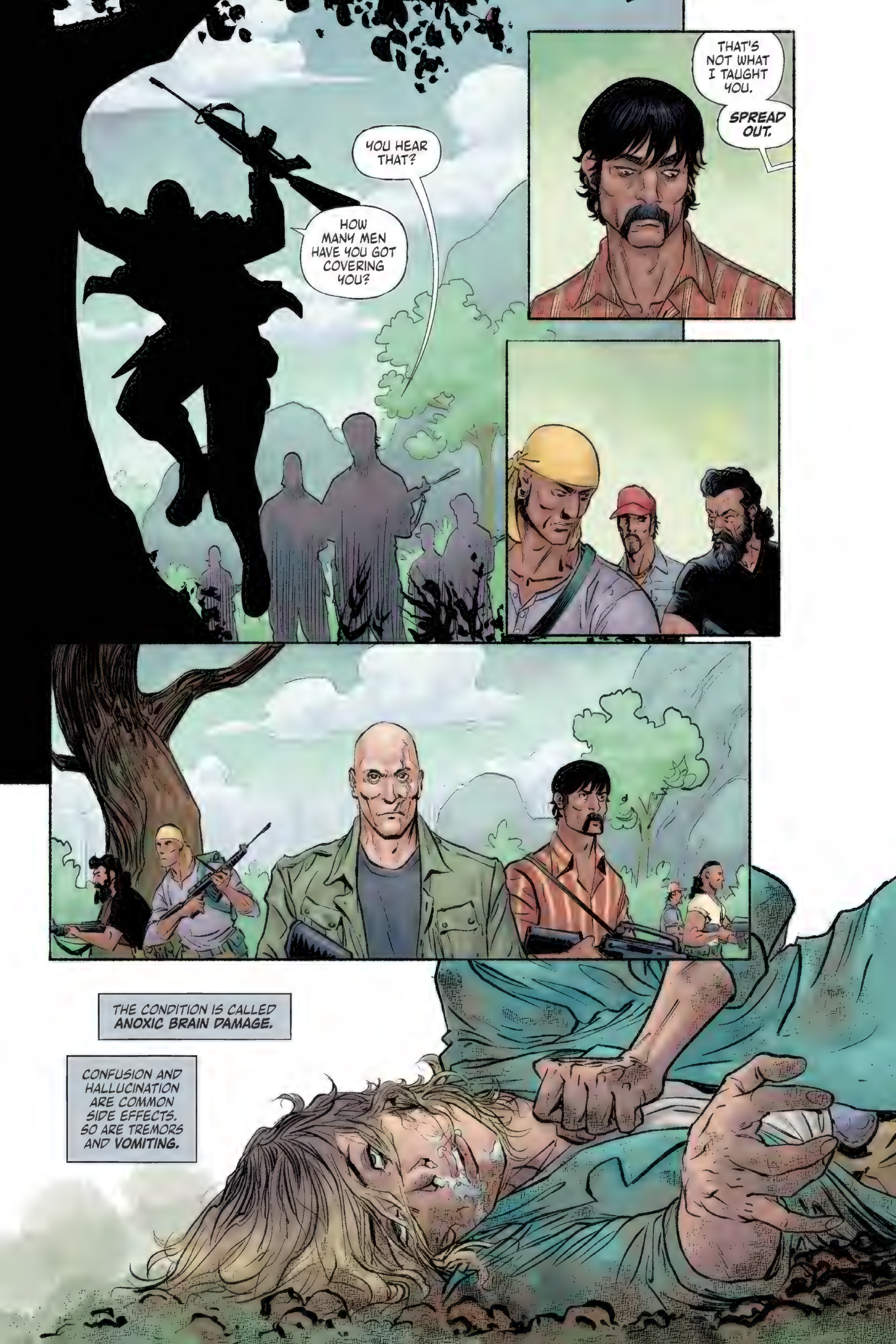
I CAN'T SEE HIM. I NEED TO SEE HIS FACE.
MS. MARSDEN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? BE CAREFUL!

YEAH. WELL, NOW THERE ARE BODIES SHOWING UP DOWNRIVER.
IT'S DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE RAINFOREST. THEY DON'T WANT ATTENTION DRAWN TO THE RAINFOREST.

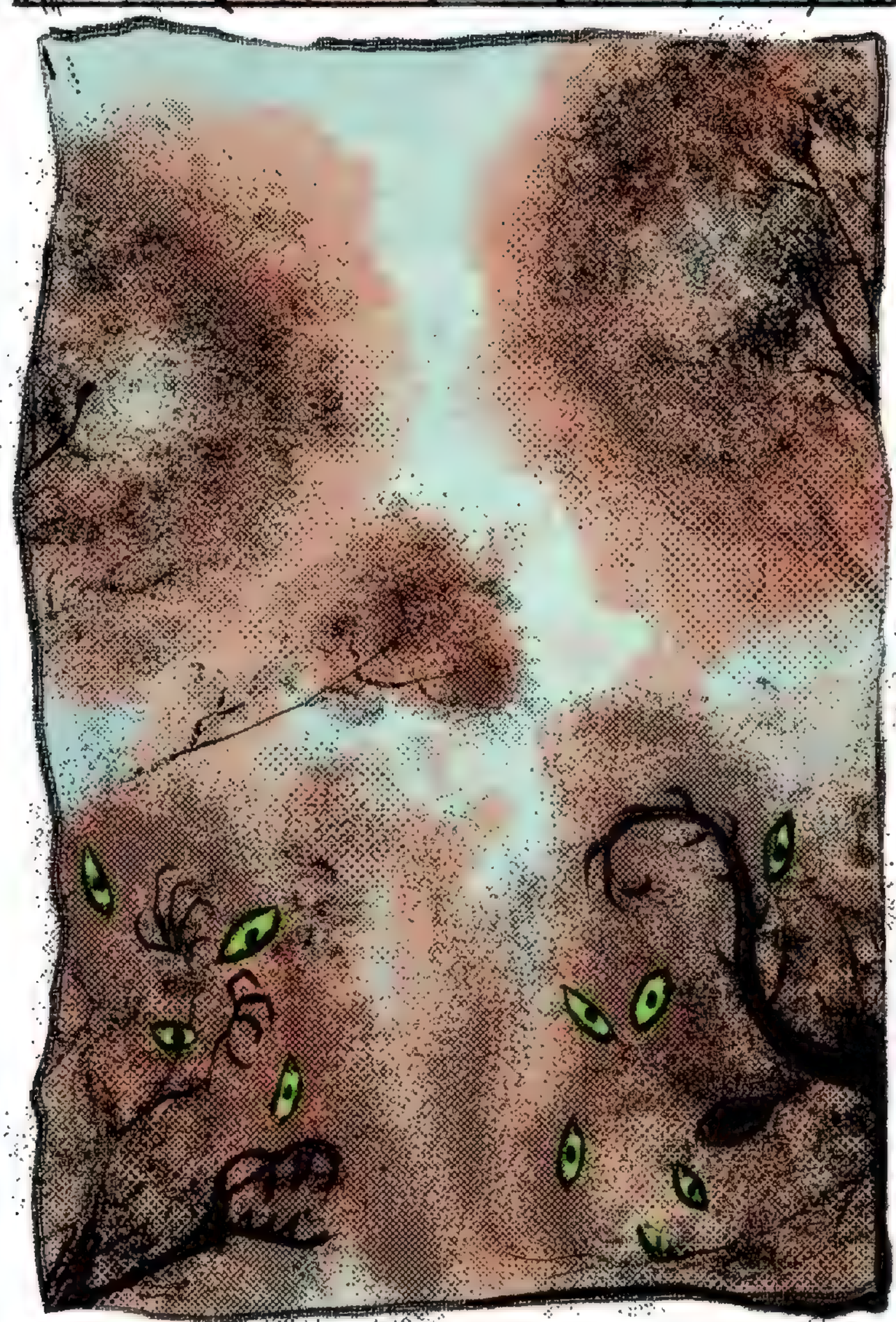
NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
NOW OUR BUSINESS IS CONCLUDED-- NOW YOU BOYS ARE ALL TRAINED UP-- I'M JUST OUT HERE ENJOYING MY RETIREMENT.

THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THIS PLACE, DON'T YOU FEEL IT?

THERE'S A DEPTH TO ITS BEAUTY NOT LIKE ANYWHERE ELSE.
YOU. I'VE FOUND YOU.
I'VE FOUND YOU, YOU--
I-- I'VE--
HUK!


YOU HEAR THAT?
HOW MANY MEN HAVE YOU GOT COVERING YOU?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I TAUGHT YOU.
SPREAD OUT.
THE CONDITION IS CALLED ANOXIC BRAIN DAMAGE.
CONFUSION AND HALLUCINATION ARE COMMON SIDE EFFECTS. SO ARE TREMORS AND VOMITING.

SUCH EFFECTS ARE NOT ALWAYS INSTANTANEOUS.



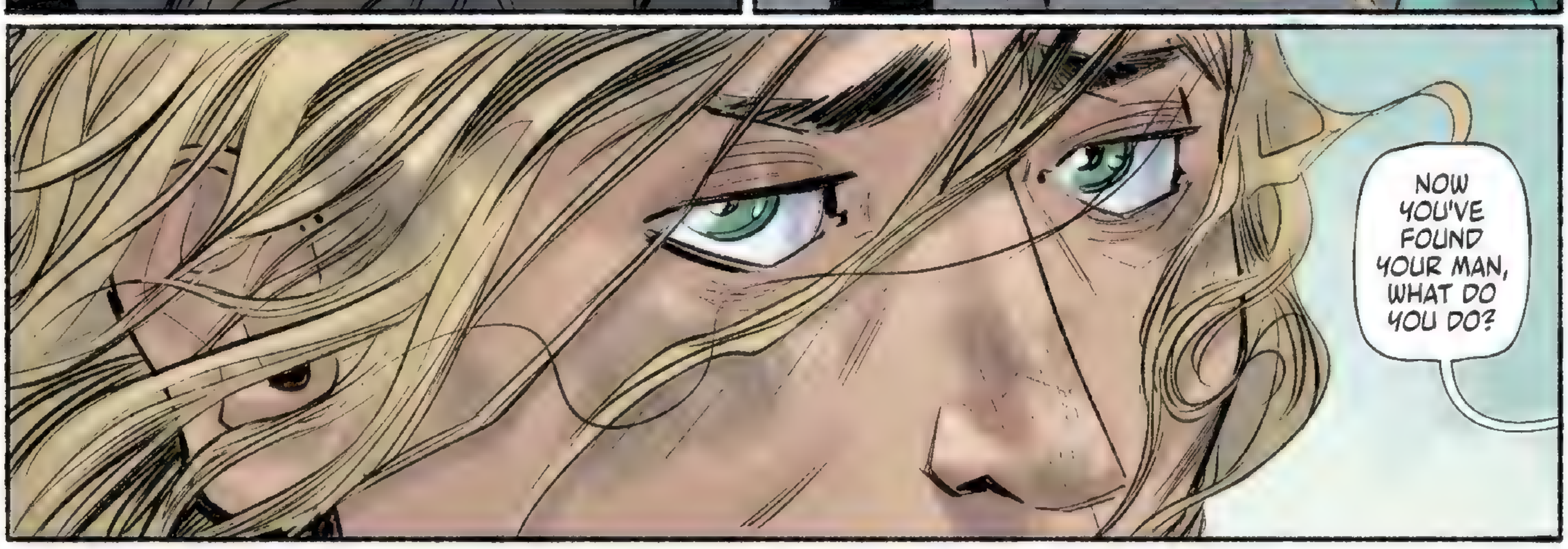
LOOK.
IS THAT SOMEONE THERE?
HRRRL
HRRRLL
HEY, HEY WHAT THE--?!
BLAAM
BLAAM
SHOOT IT!
BLAAM BLAAM

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THEY HAVE TURNED ON EACH OTHER, PERHAPS. IT IS NOT OUR CONCERN.

HMM, UNLESS...

MS. MARSDEN?
I--I'M OK. I THINK I'M OK.
IT WAS THE SHOCK. OF SEEING HIM.

MS. MARSDEN. THIS COLLIER...
...IF HE'S WORKING WITH THE NARCOS, THAT MEANS HE'S **UNTOUCHABLE.** THE POLICE ARE PAID OFF.
SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

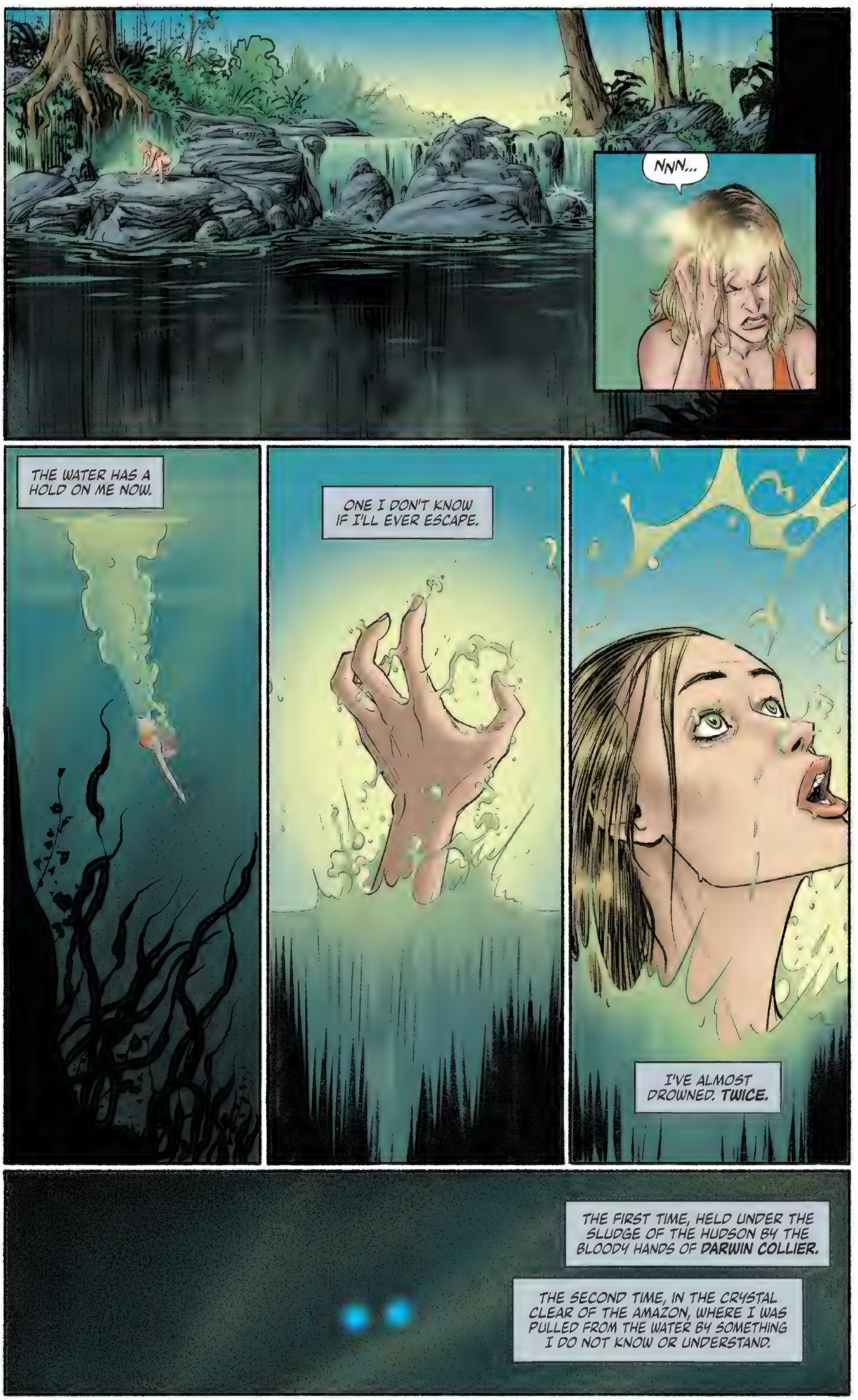

NOW YOU'VE FOUND YOUR MAN, WHAT DO YOU DO?

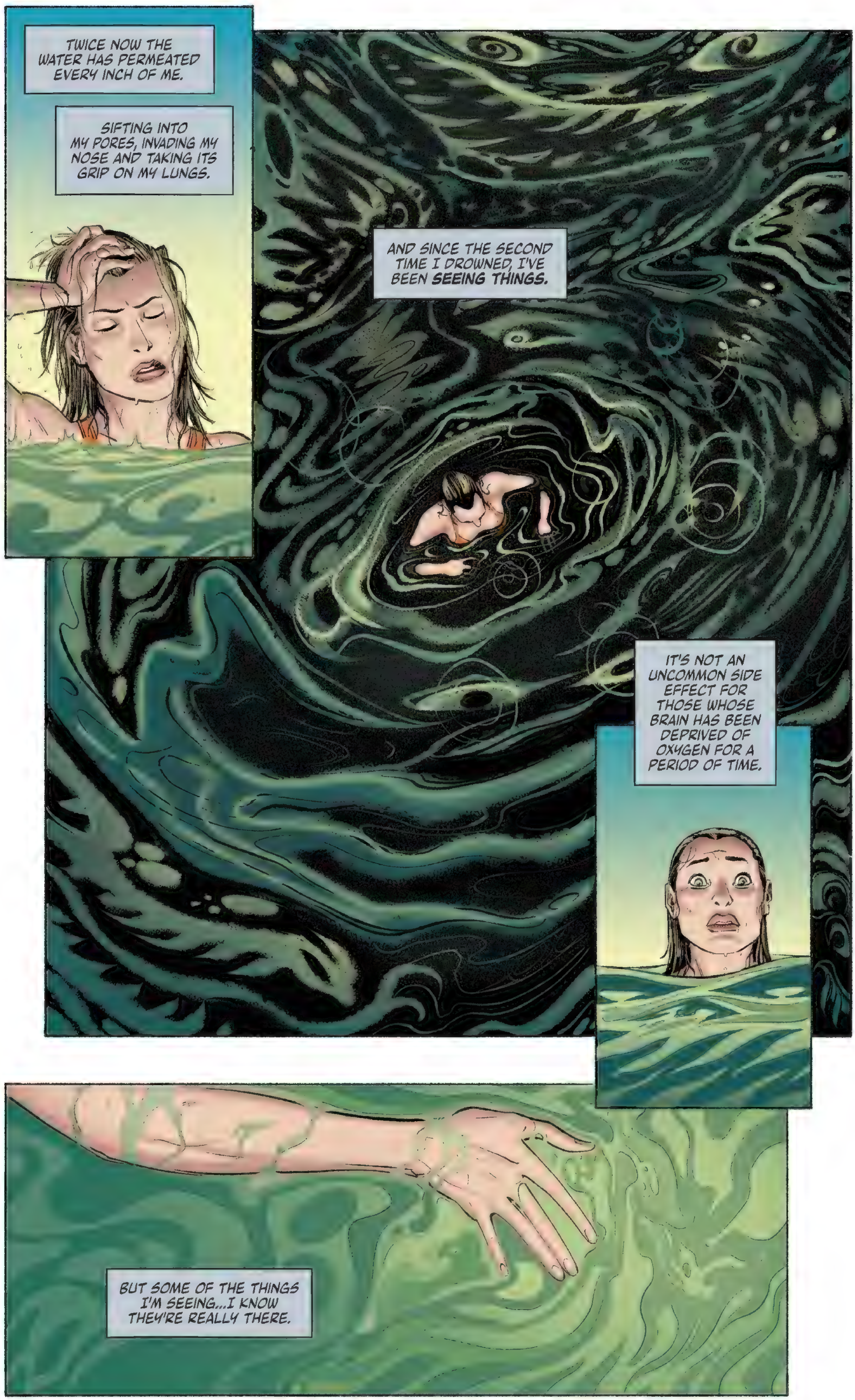
WELL.
I THINK YOU'LL HAVE TO AGREE THIS WEREN'T ME, HUH?
BUT-- WHAT?
THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. A BEAUTIFUL PLACE LIKE NOWHERE ELSE.

THE CONDITION IS CALLED ANOXIC BRAIN DAMAGE.
CONFUSION AND HALLUCINATION ARE COMMON SIDE EFFECTS. SO ARE TREMORS AND VOMITING.
AND SO ARE CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR AND PERSONALITY.
THE WATER CAN CHANGE YOU INTO SOMEONE ELSE ENTIRELY.
IT CAN KEEP ITS HOLD ON YOU LONG AFTER YOU SURFACE...
...YOU CAN CARRY IT WITH YOU FOREVER.

I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.
THAT'S THE ONLY JUSTICE TO BE FOUND IN THE RAINFOREST, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S HOW THIS ENDS.

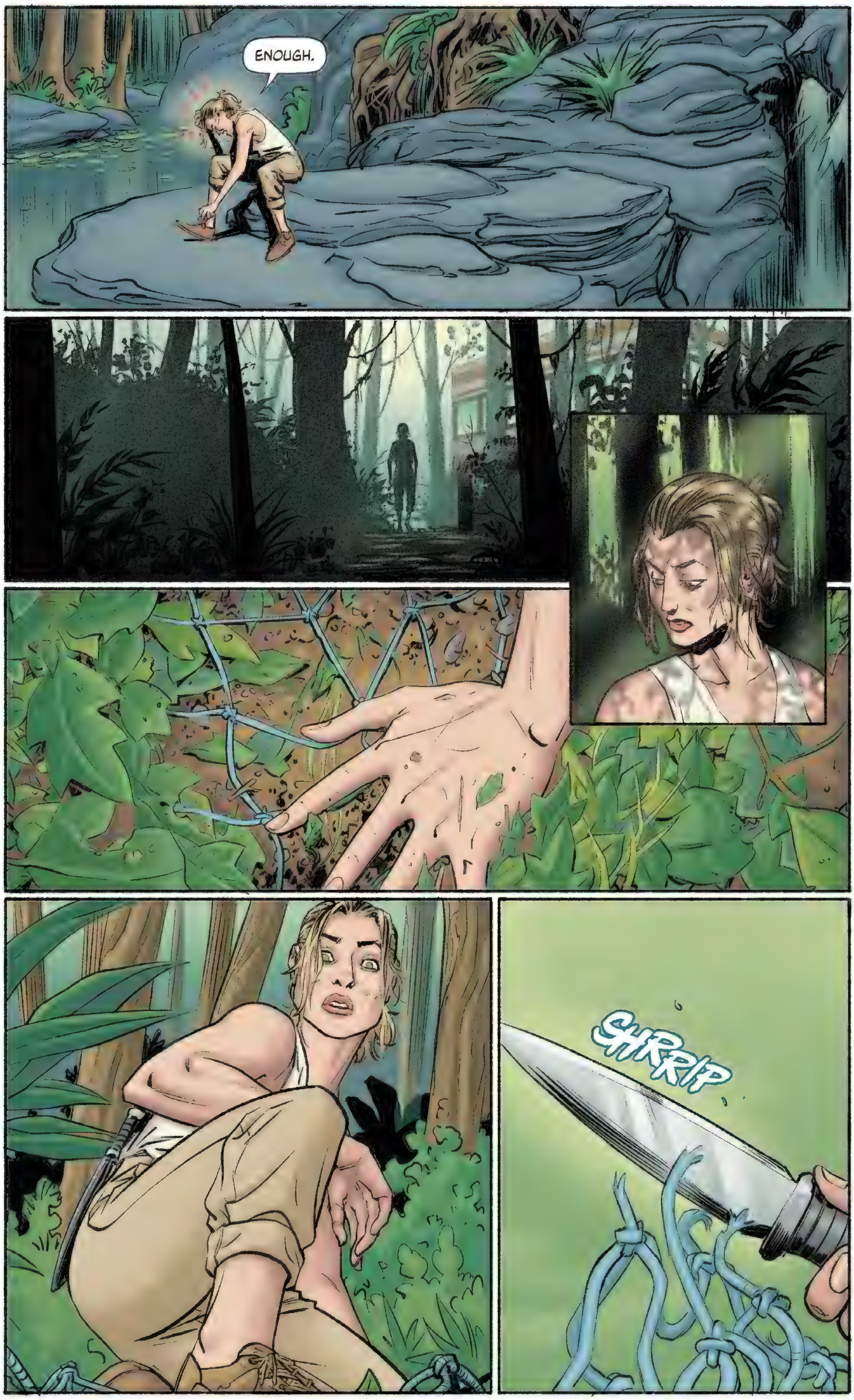

NNN...
THE WATER HAS A HOLD ON ME NOW.
ONE I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER ESCAPE.
I'VE ALMOST DROWNED. TWICE.
THE FIRST TIME, HELD UNDER THE SLUDGE OF THE HUDSON BY THE BLOODY HANDS OF DARWIN COLLIER.
THE SECOND TIME, IN THE CRYSTAL CLEAR OF THE AMAZON, WHERE I WAS PULLED FROM THE WATER BY SOMETHING I DO NOT KNOW OR UNDERSTAND.

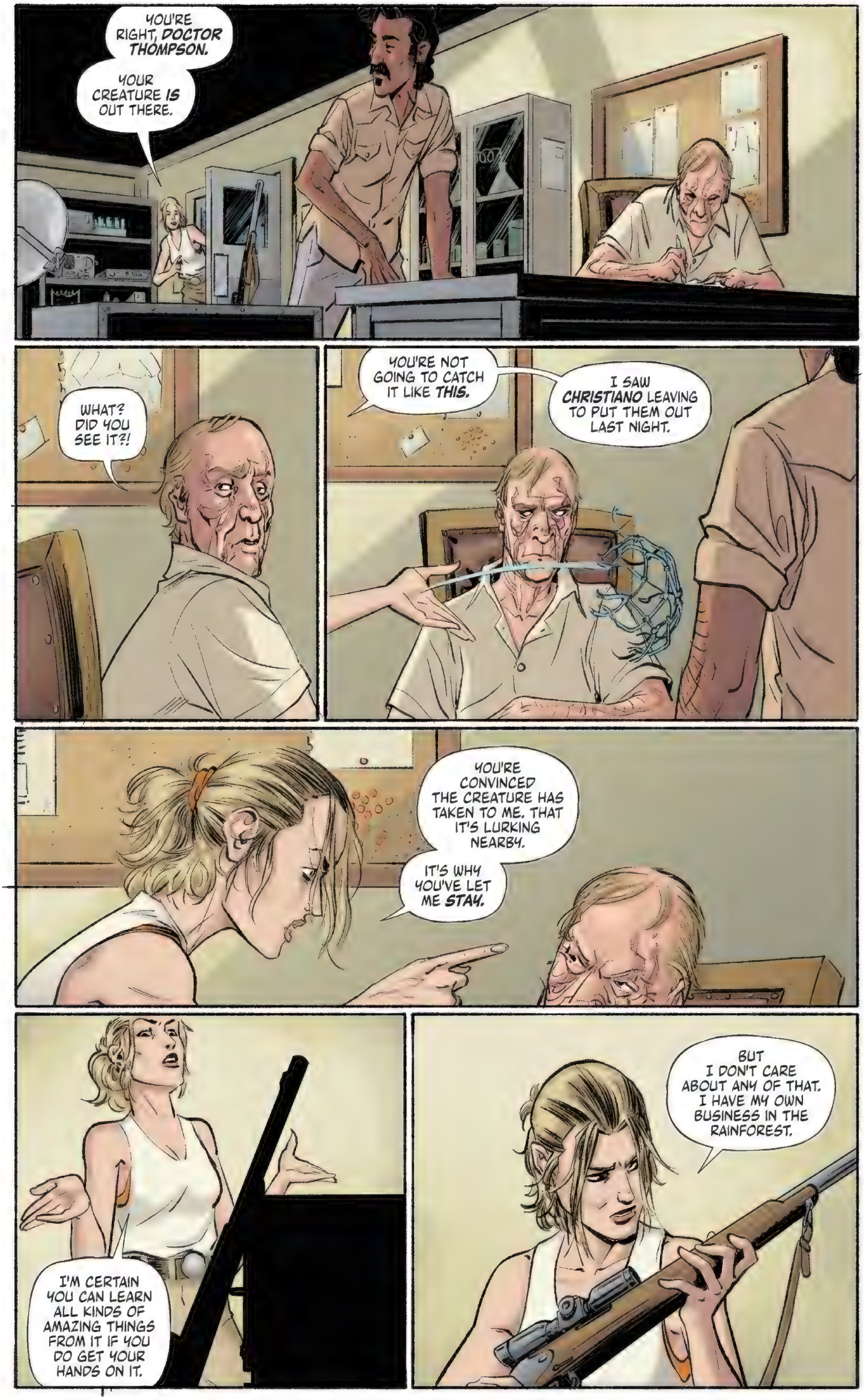

TWICE NOW THE WATER HAS PERMEATED EVERY INCH OF ME.
SIFTING INTO MY PORES, INVADING MY NOSE AND TAKING ITS GRIP ON MY LUNGS.
AND SINCE THE SECOND TIME I DROWNED, I'VE BEEN SEEING THINGS.
IT'S NOT AN UNCOMMON SIDE EFFECT FOR THOSE WHOSE BRAIN HAS BEEN DEPRIVED OF OXYGEN FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.
BUT SOME OF THE THINGS I'M SEEING...I KNOW THEY'RE REALLY THERE.

THE WATER HAS A HOLD ON ME.

I CAN FEEL ITS PITCH BLACK POOLS AND SCREAMING WATERFALLS IN MY SOUL.
I CAN FEEL ITS DEPTH. ITS POWER.

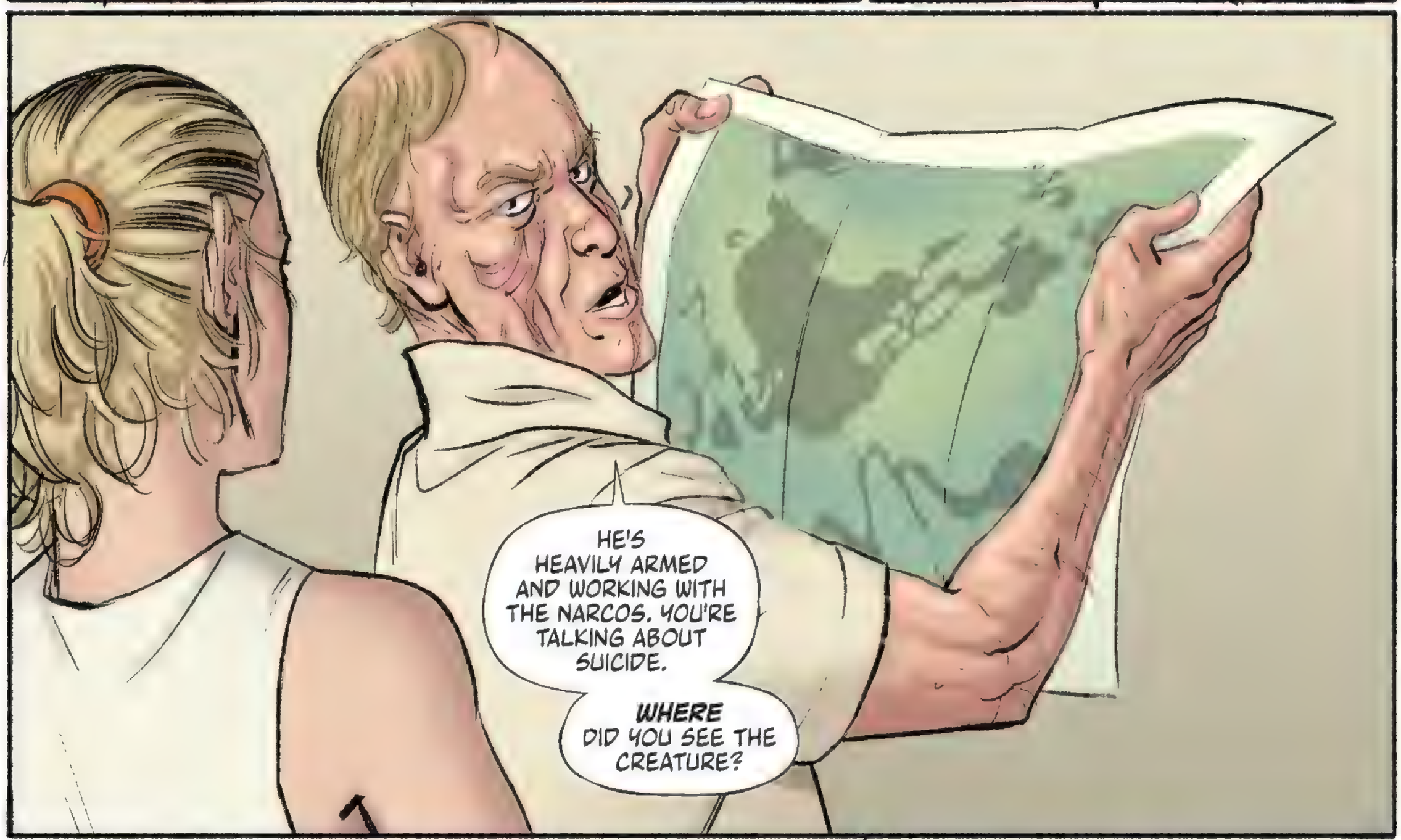
I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE IF I WANT TO ESCAPE.


ENOUGH.
SHRRIP

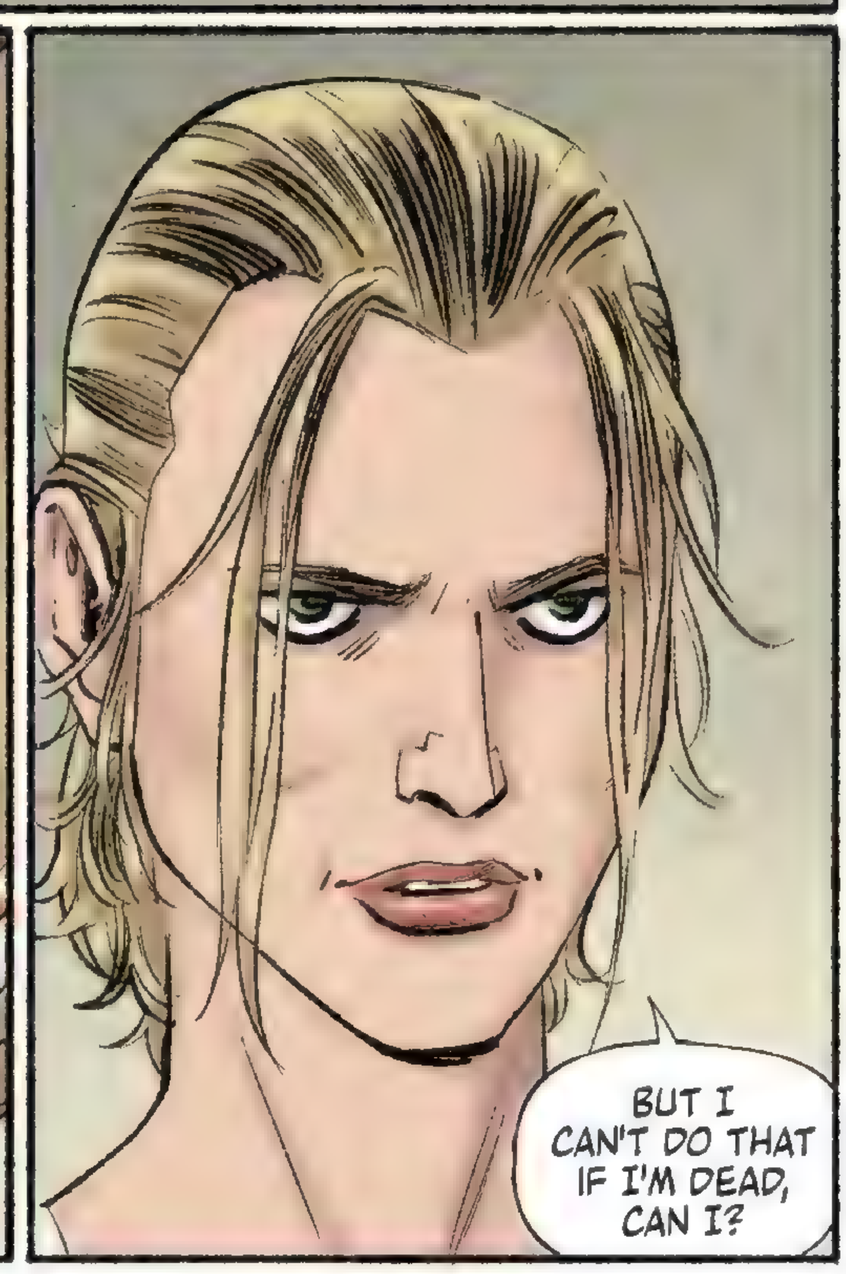

YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR THOMPSON.
YOUR CREATURE IS OUT THERE.
WHAT? DID YOU SEE IT?!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CATCH IT LIKE THIS.
I SAW CHRISTIANO LEAVING TO PUT THEM OUT LAST NIGHT.
YOU'RE CONVINCED THE CREATURE HAS TAKEN TO ME. THAT IT'S LURKING NEARBY.
IT'S WHY YOU'VE LET ME STAY.
I'M CERTAIN YOU CAN LEARN ALL KINDS OF AMAZING THINGS FROM IT IF YOU DO GET YOUR HANDS ON IT.
BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT. I HAVE MY OWN BUSINESS IN THE RAINFOREST.

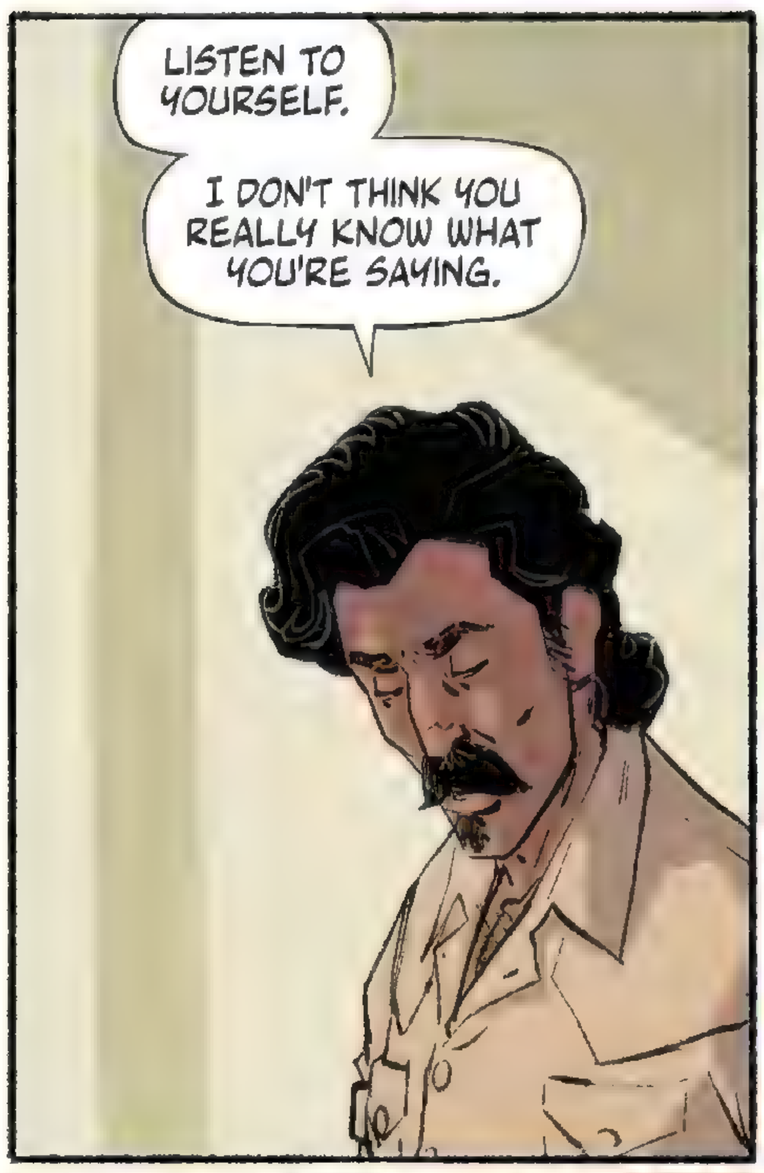
KATE... THIS OBSESSION WITH THE MARINE DARWIN COLLIER...
MARINE, MY ASS.
YOU HAVE A SERIAL KILLER PROWLING YOUR RAINFOREST, CHRISTIANO.

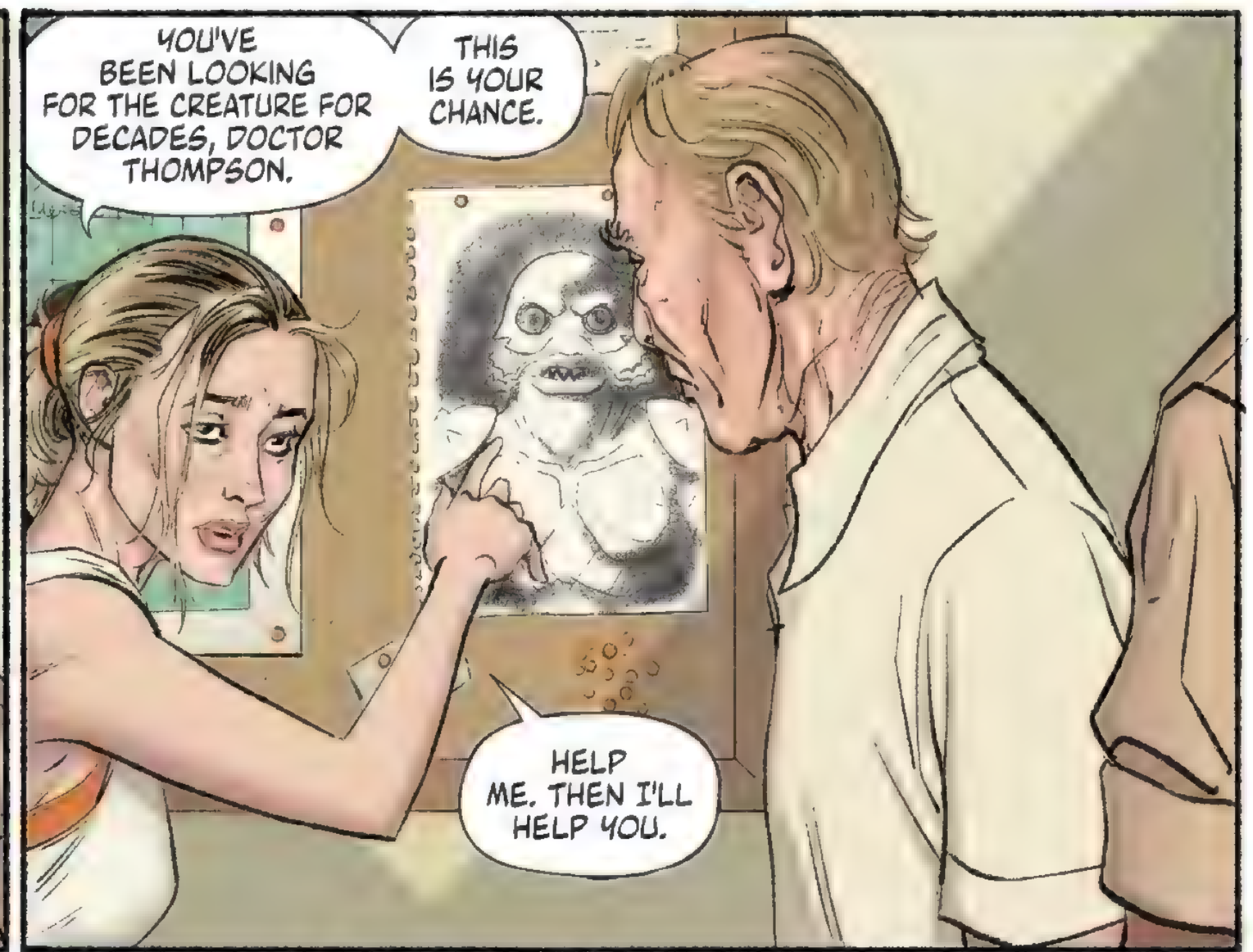
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. I COULD DO WITH SOME BACKUP.

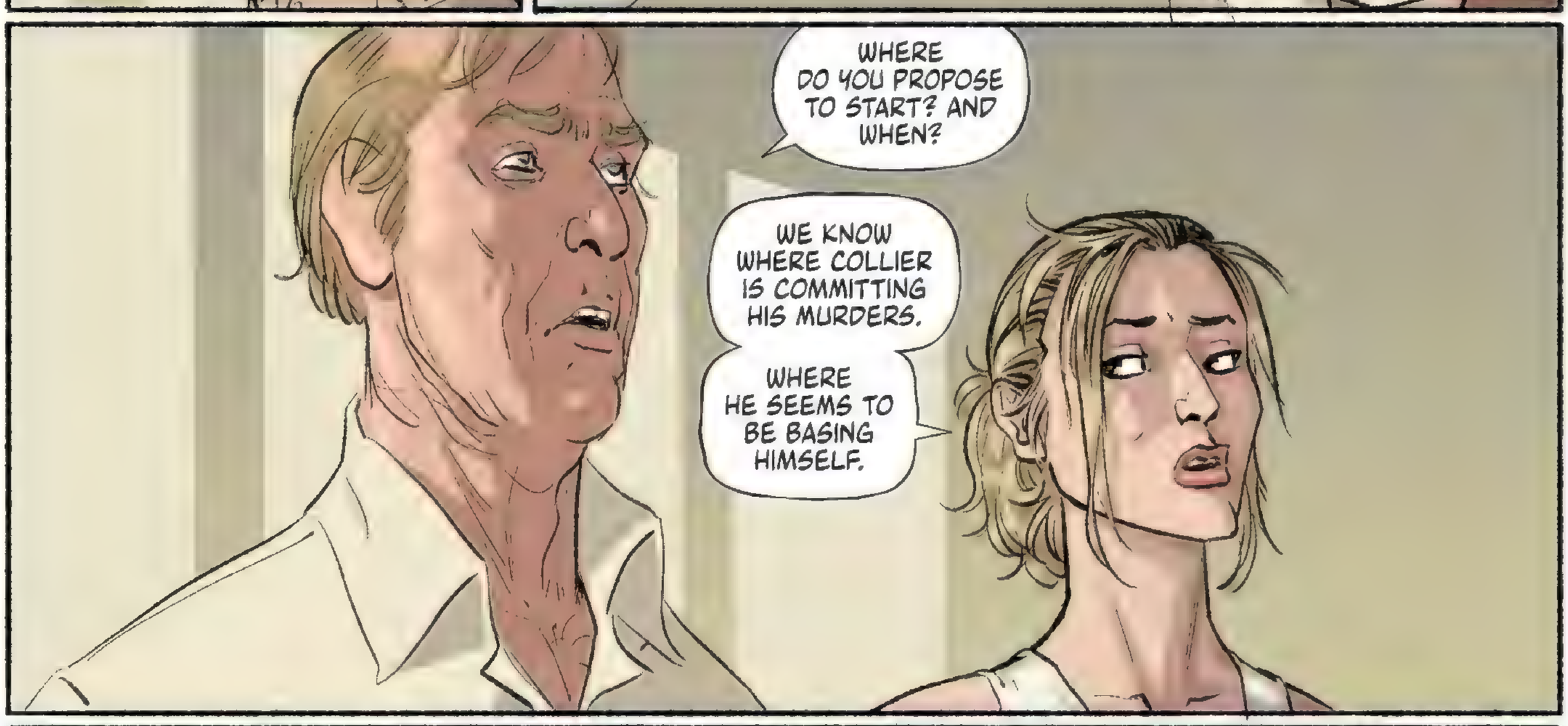

HE'S HEAVILY ARMED AND WORKING WITH THE NARCOS. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SUICIDE.
WHERE DID YOU SEE THE CREATURE?

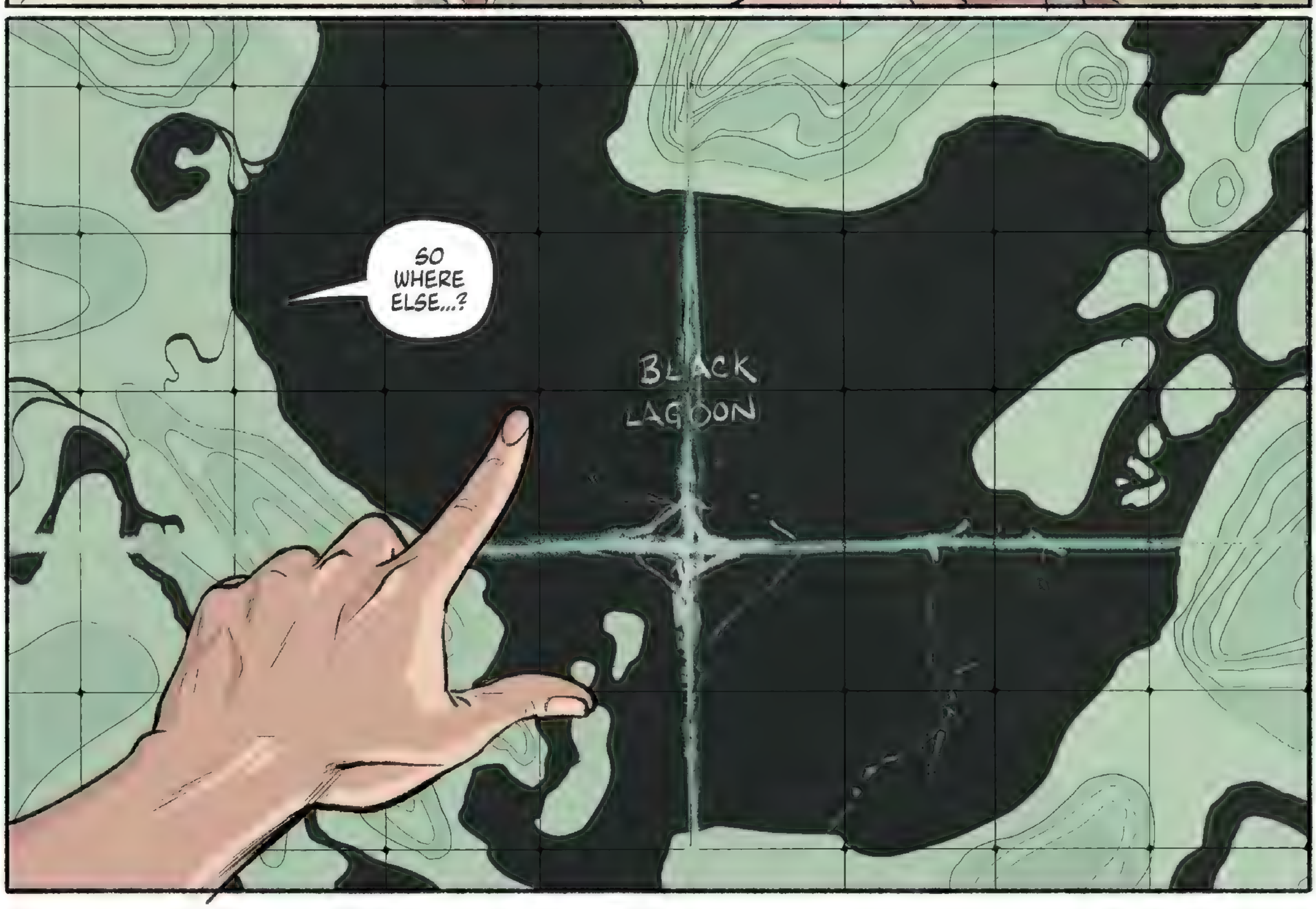
IT DOESN'T FEAR ME. I'M CERTAIN I COULD COAX IT OUT AGAIN FOR YOU.


BUT I CAN'T DO THAT IF I'M DEAD, CAN I?


LISTEN TO YOURSELF.
I DON'T THINK YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.


YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THE CREATURE FOR DECADES, DOCTOR THOMPSON.
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.
HELP ME. THEN I'LL HELP YOU.


WHERE DO YOU PROPOSE TO START? AND WHEN?
WE KNOW WHERE COLLIER IS COMMITTING HIS MURDERS.
WHERE HE SEEMS TO BE BASING HIMSELF.


SO WHERE ELSE...?
BLACK LAGOON

"WE SHOULD HAVE LEFT TONIGHT."

"WE NEED THE MORNING'S LIGHT TO FIND OUR WAY TO THE LAGOON."

THERE'S ENOUGH LIGHT. THE WHOLE SKY LOOKS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE.

JUST THE FOREST.

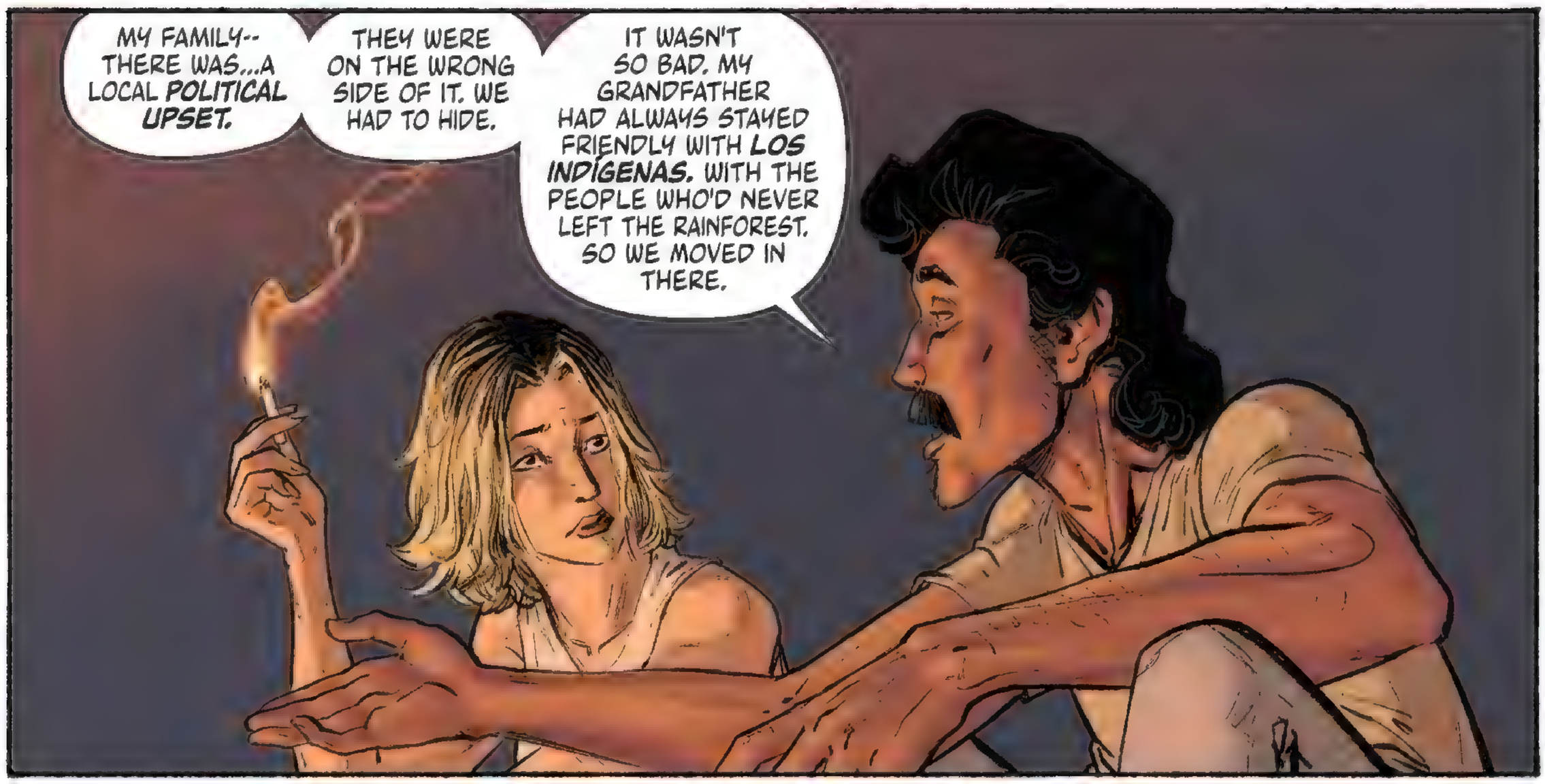
LOGGERS.

THEY CUT DOWN THE TREES AND SELL THE TIMBER.

THEY BURN WHAT FOLIAGE IS LEFT TO CLEAR THE LAND TO FARM CATTLE.

EACH DAY, MORE OF THE AMAZON BURNS. EACH DAY, THERE ARE LESS OF ITS MYSTERIES AND WONDERS IN THE WORLD.

I GREW UP HERE, YOU KNOW.


MY FAMILY-- THERE WAS...A LOCAL POLITICAL UPSET.
THEY WERE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF IT. WE HAD TO HIDE.
IT WASN'T SO BAD. MY GRANDFATHER HAD ALWAYS STAYED FRIENDLY WITH LOS INDÍGENAS. WITH THE PEOPLE WHO'D NEVER LEFT THE RAINFOREST. SO WE MOVED IN THERE.

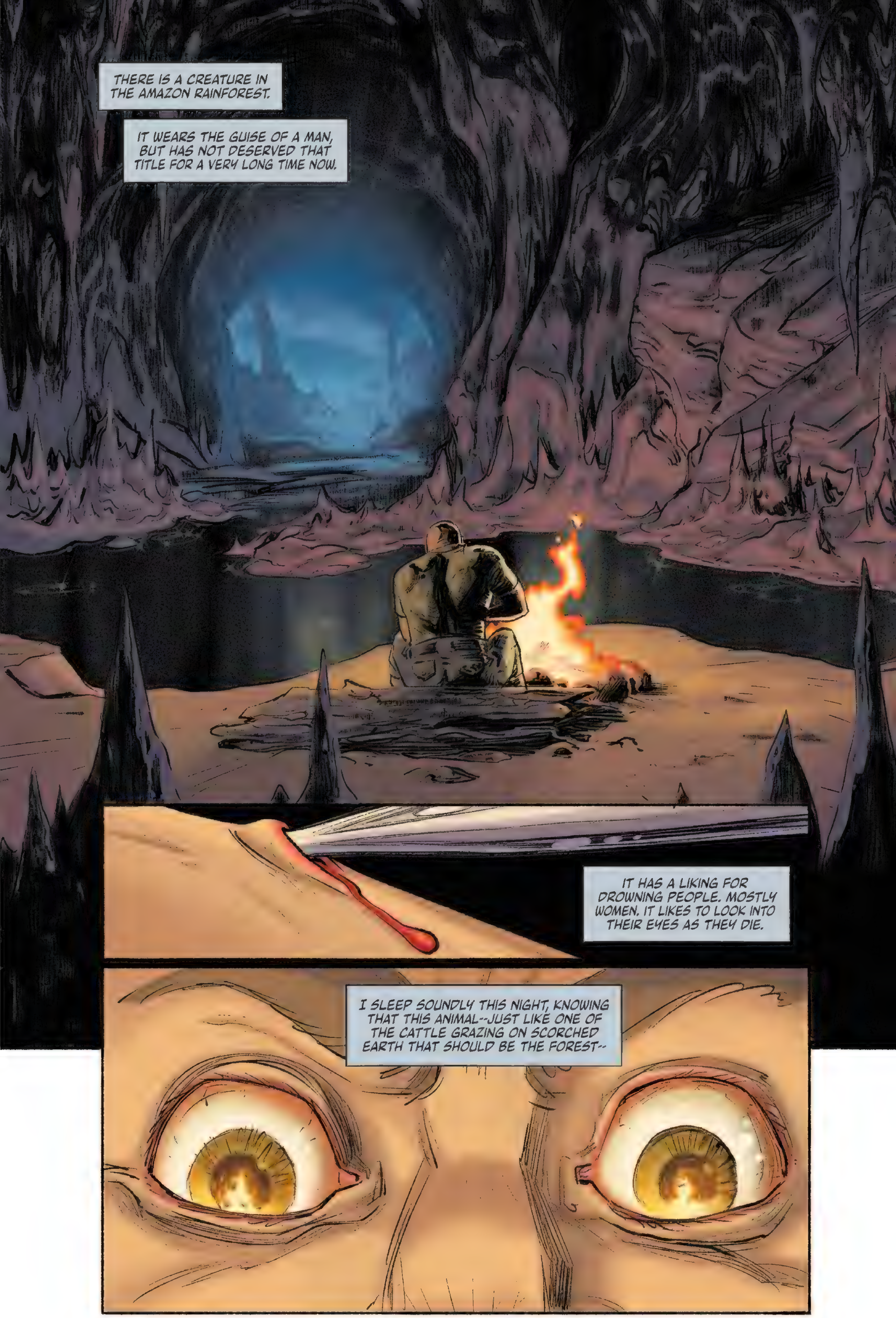
THE FIRST TIME I GOT MALARIA, I WAS NINE YEARS OLD.
WE HAD NO ACCESS TO OUTSIDE MEDICINE. WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD IT, ANYWAY.
SO WHAT DID YOU DO?

I LAY THERE AND I BURNED.
I LAY THERE AND FELT MY WHOLE WORLD WAS ENDING.

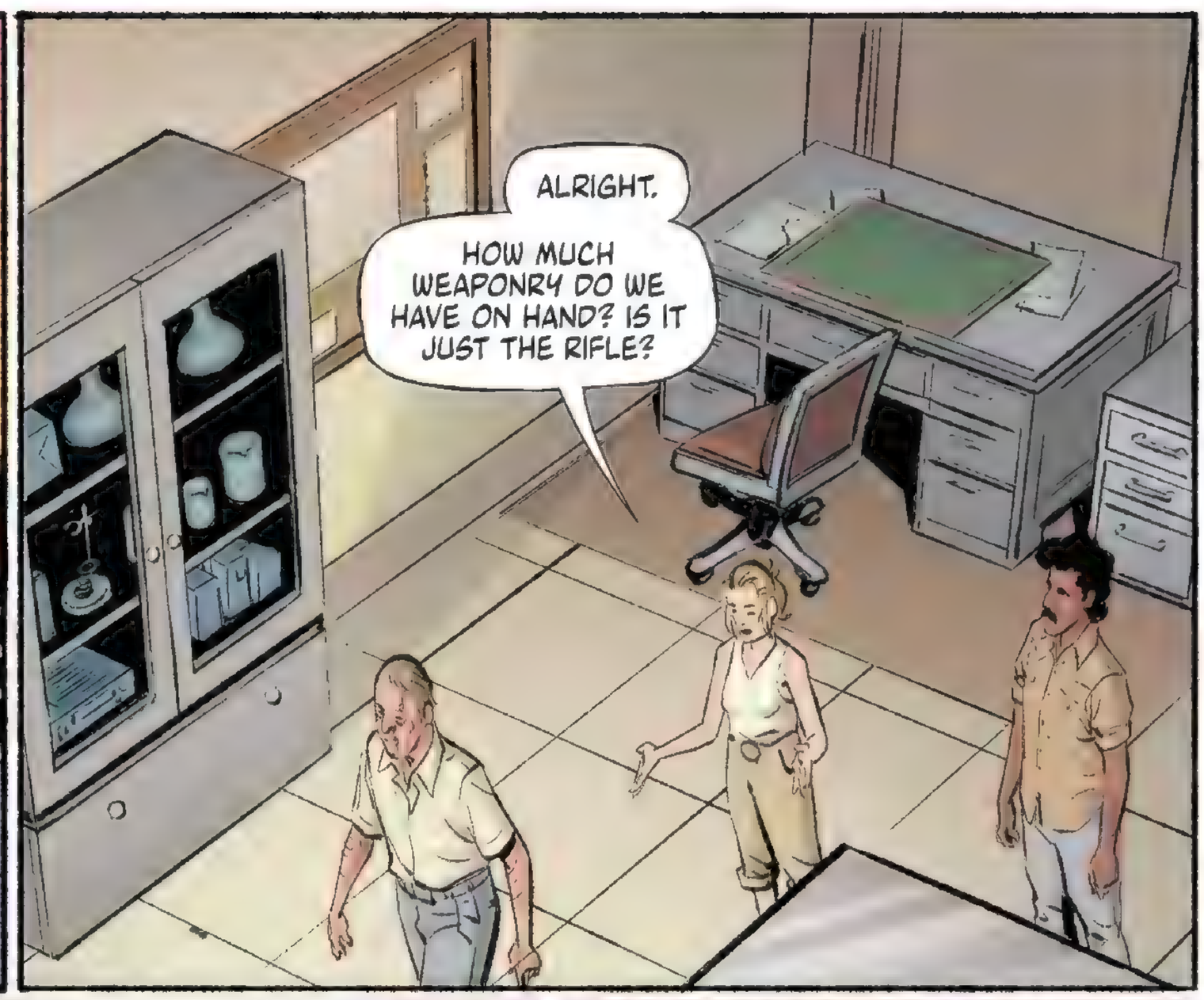
AND THEN EVENTUALLY, MY BODY BURNED OUT THE DISEASE. IT WAS DANGEROUS, AND DEADLY...BUT IT PASSED THROUGH ME.
AND THEN I WOKE ONE DAY, SHAKY FROM HUNGER AND SWEATY-- BUT WELL.

I FELT CLEANSED.
TIME HEALED ME. AND THE MORE THAT PASSED, THE LESS I EVER THOUGHT OF IT AGAIN.

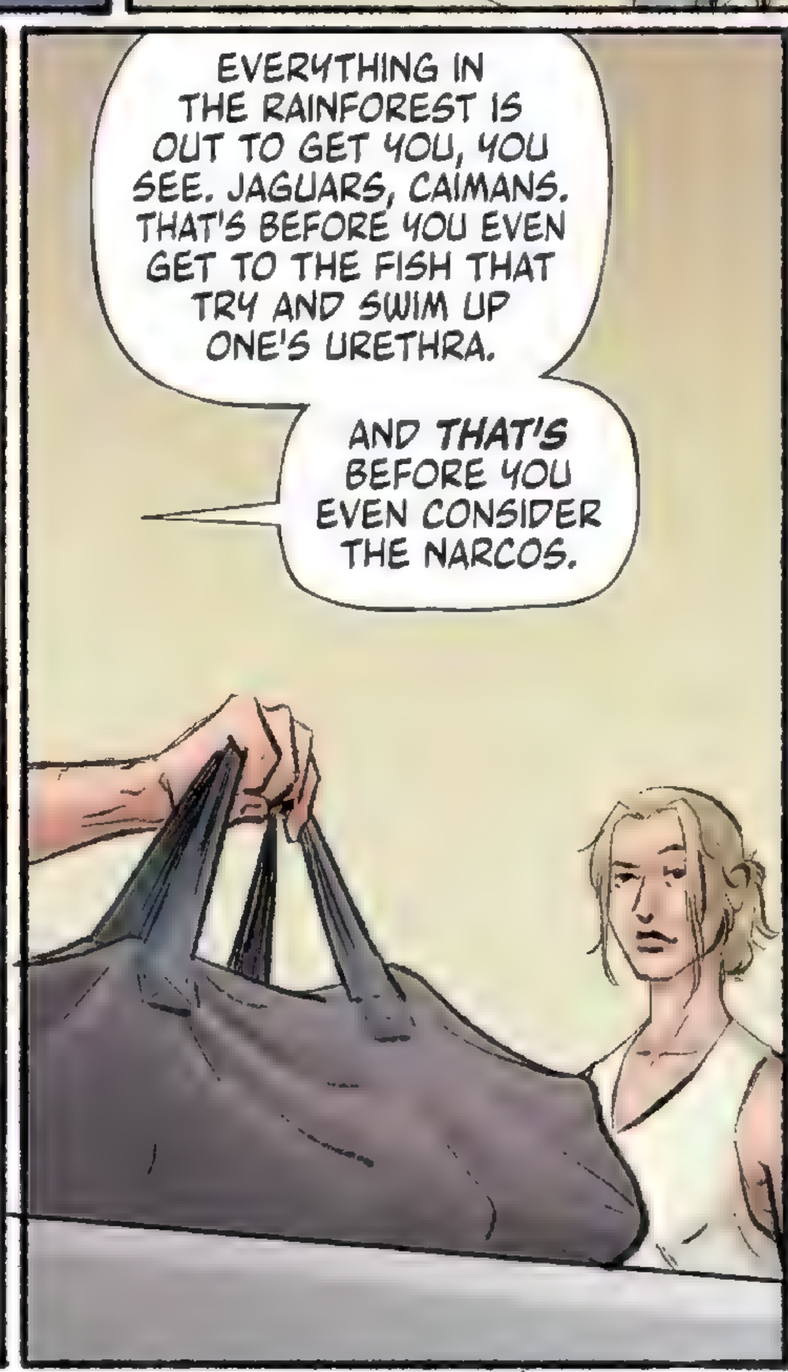
I WAS JUST A KID.
PERHAPS I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS IT COULD HAVE BEEN.
HOW CLOSE I CAME TO DEATH.
I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS SUCH EXPERIENCES DON'T DEFINE YOU.
DAMMIT. DID YOU DELAY OUR LEAVING JUST TO TRY AND TALK ME OUT OF IT? IT'S TOO LATE!
COLLIER TRIED TO KILL ME. HE'S STILL KILLING PEOPLE.
HE'S NOT A DISEASE. NOT A FORCE OF NATURE.
HE'S A THING THAT CAN BE STOPPED. FLESH AND BLOOD.
FLESH AND BLOOD I'M GOING TO PUT A BULLET IN.
OK THEN.

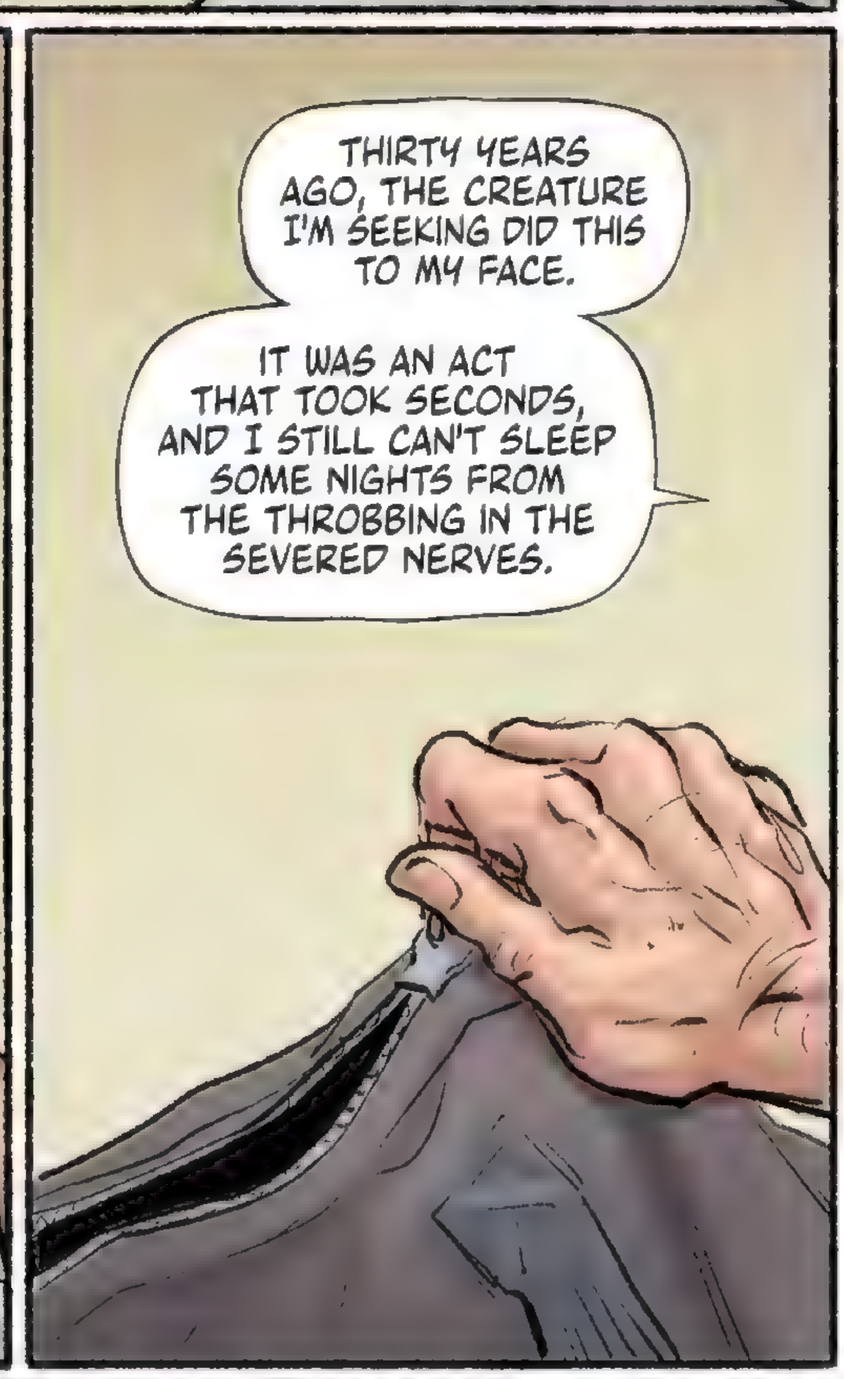

THERE IS A CREATURE IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST.
IT WEARS THE GUISE OF A MAN, BUT HAS NOT DESERVED THAT TITLE FOR A VERY LONG TIME NOW.
IT HAS A LIKING FOR DROWNING PEOPLE. MOSTLY WOMEN. IT LIKES TO LOOK INTO THEIR EYES AS THEY DIE.
I SLEEP SOUNDLY THIS NIGHT, KNOWING THAT THIS ANIMAL--JUST LIKE ONE OF THE CATTLE GRAZING ON SCORCHED EARTH THAT SHOULD BE THE FOREST--

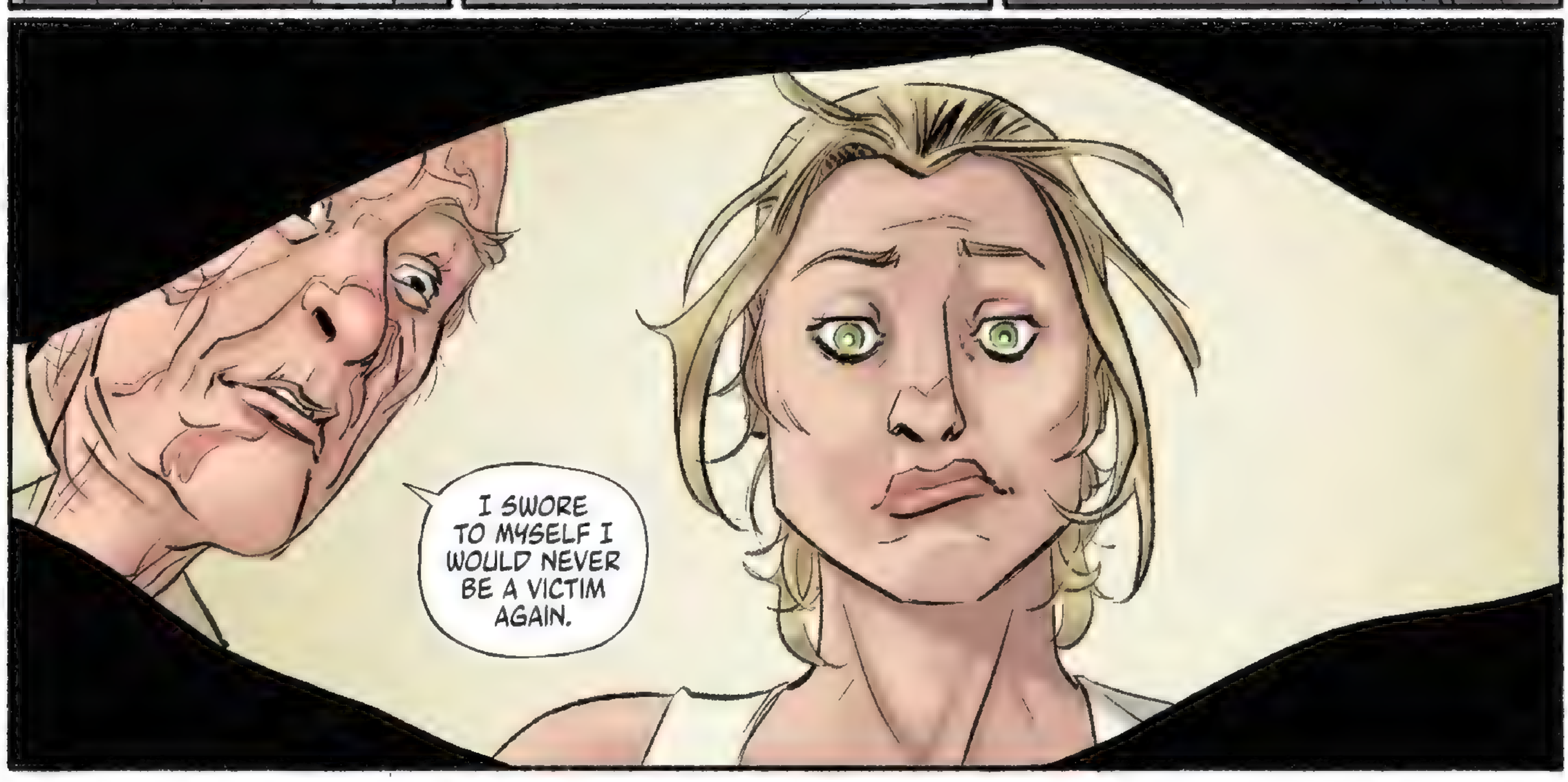
--HAS NO IDEA THE MORNING'S SUNRISE WILL BE ITS VERY LAST.

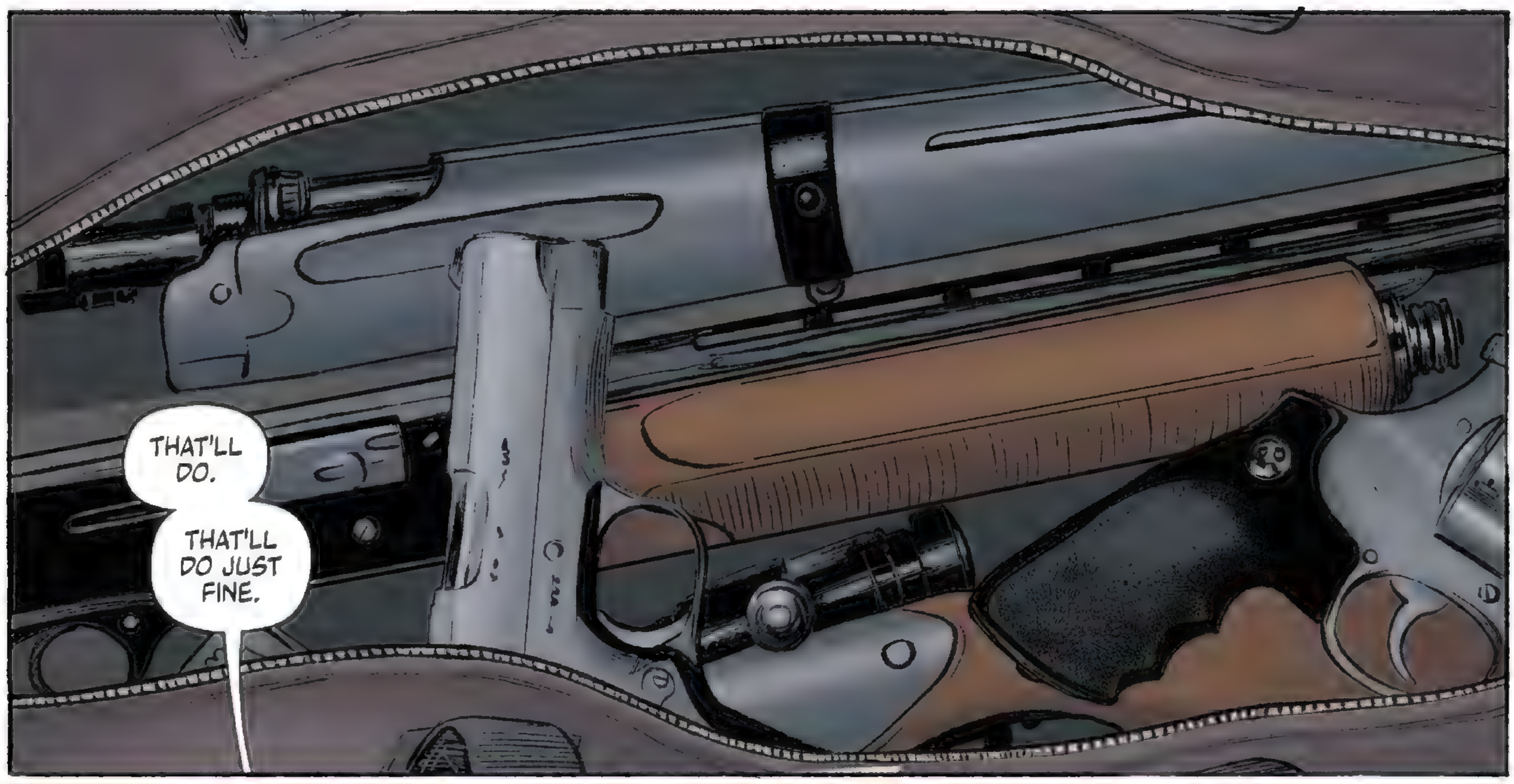

ALRIGHT.
HOW MUCH WEAPONRY DO WE HAVE ON HAND? IS IT JUST THE RIFLE?

AH, NO.

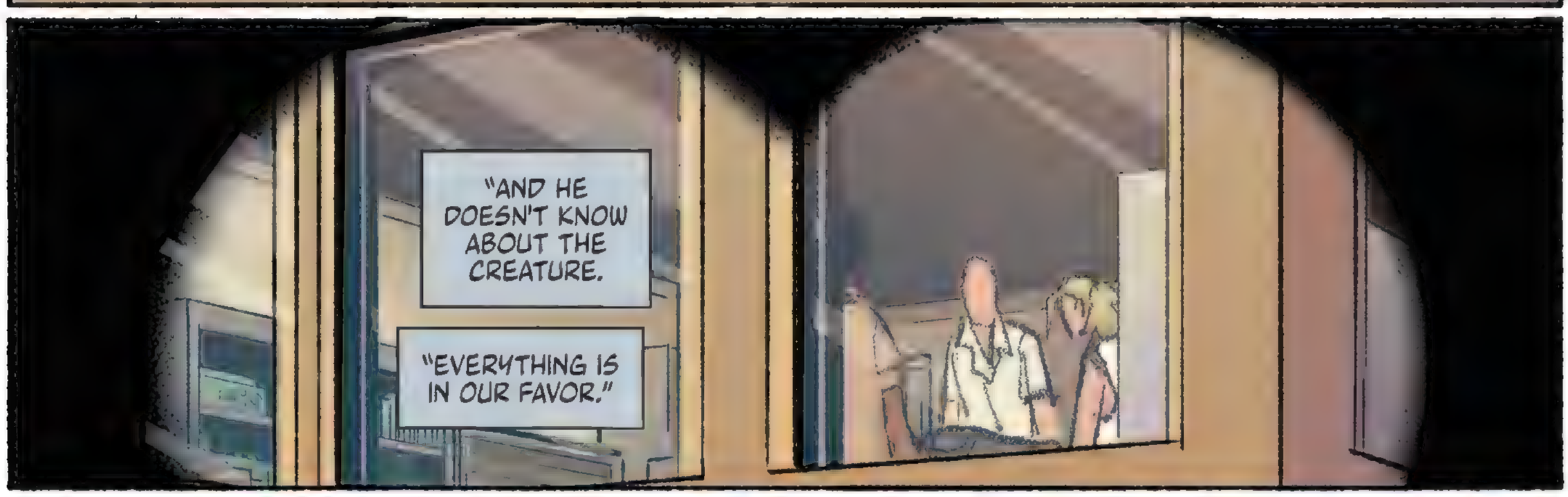

EVERYTHING IN THE RAINFOREST IS OUT TO GET YOU, YOU SEE. JAGUARS, CAIMANS. THAT'S BEFORE YOU EVEN GET TO THE FISH THAT TRY AND SWIM UP ONE'S URETHRA.
AND THAT'S BEFORE YOU EVEN CONSIDER THE NARCOS.


THIRTY YEARS AGO, THE CREATURE I'M SEEKING DID THIS TO MY FACE.
IT WAS AN ACT THAT TOOK SECONDS, AND I STILL CAN'T SLEEP SOME NIGHTS FROM THE THROBBING IN THE SEVERED NERVES.

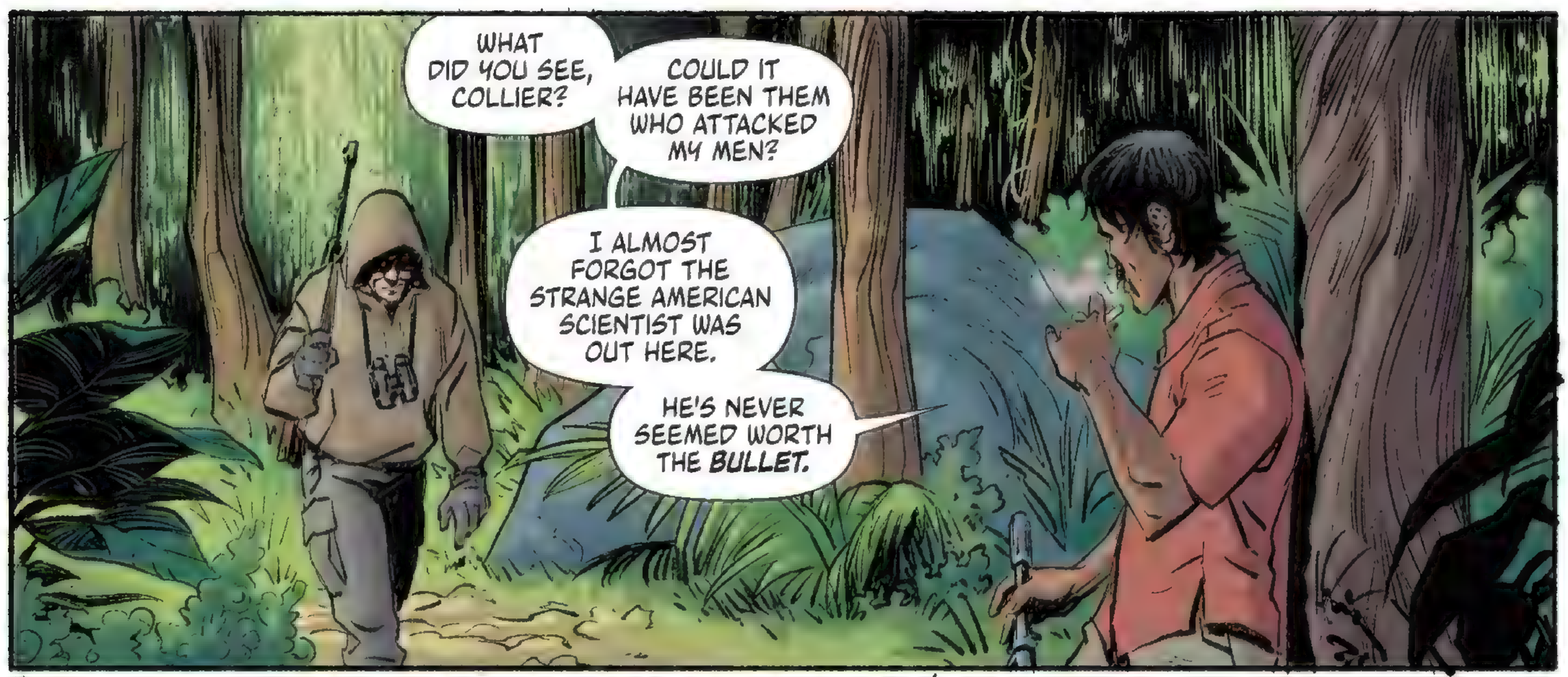

I SWORE TO MYSELF I WOULD NEVER BE A VICTIM AGAIN.


THAT'LL DO.
THAT'LL DO JUST FINE.

"COLLIER DOES APPEAR TO BE A VERY DANGEROUS MAN, MS. MARSDEN."
"BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE COMING. HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M AFTER HIM.


"AND HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE CREATURE.
"EVERYTHING IS IN OUR FAVOR."

KATE.
MY KATE. YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY.

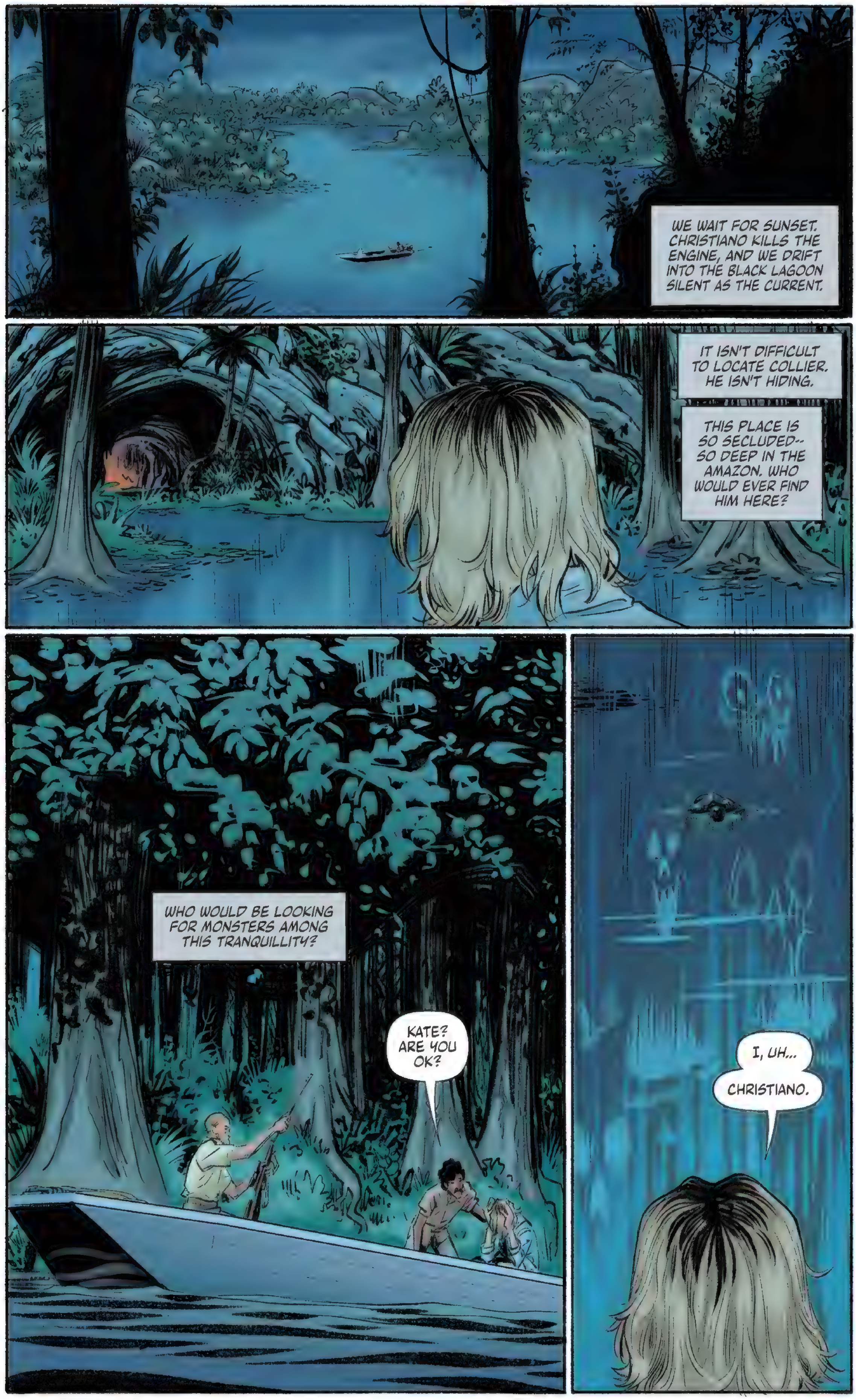

WHAT DID YOU SEE, COLLIER?
COULD IT HAVE BEEN THEM WHO ATTACKED MY MEN?
I ALMOST FORGOT THE STRANGE AMERICAN SCIENTIST WAS OUT HERE.
HE'S NEVER SEEMED WORTH THE BULLET.

NAW. CAN'T HAVE BEEN THEM.
JUST BEAKERS AN' FLASKS AND BUNSEN BURNERS AN' A DECREPIT NERD, FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.

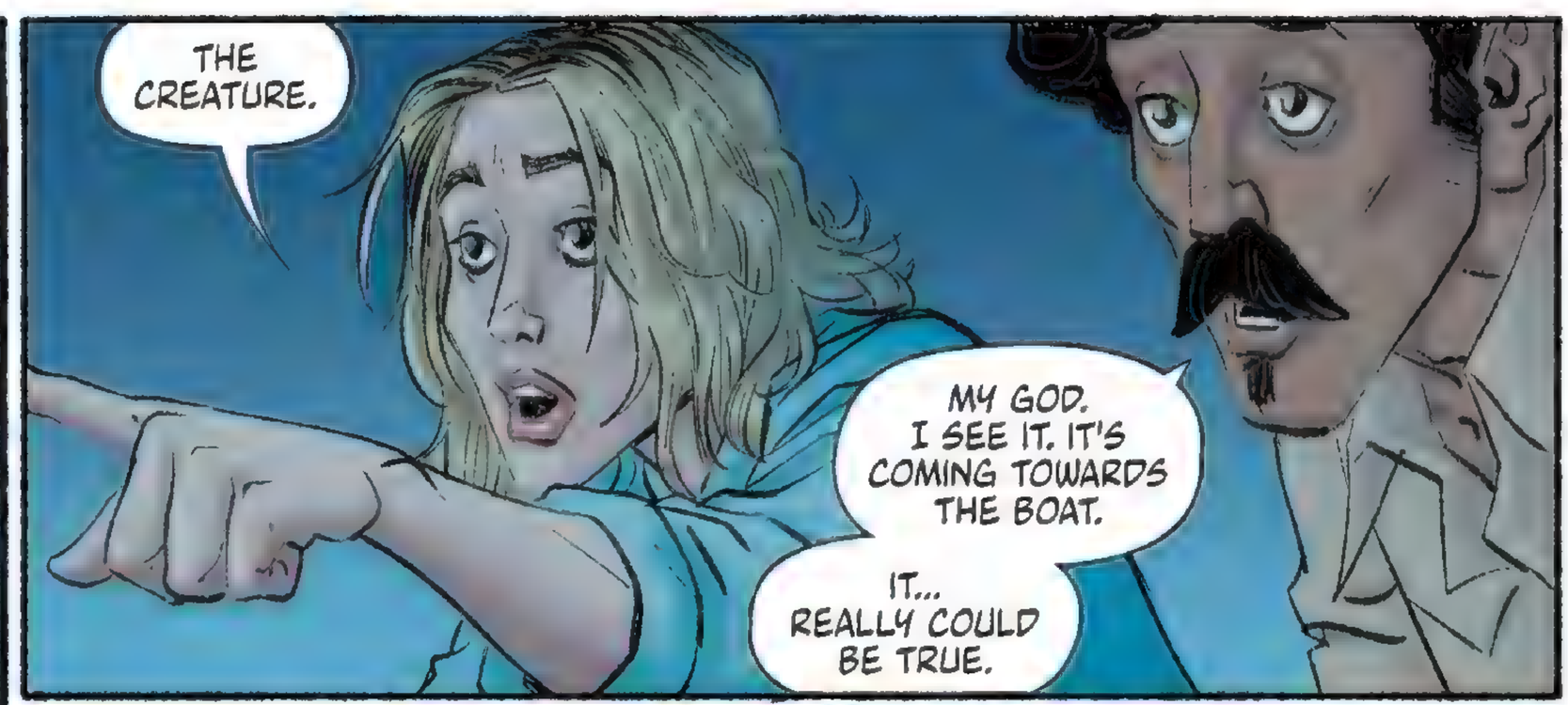
I'LL HAVE MY MEN BURN THE LAB TO THE GROUND ANYWAY. JUST TO BE SAFE.

SURE. IT WAS TWO OF YOUR MEN WHO WERE TORN UP INTA CONFETTI BY SOMETHING OUT HERE.
YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT, PAULO.

YOU'RE THE BIG MAN NOW.

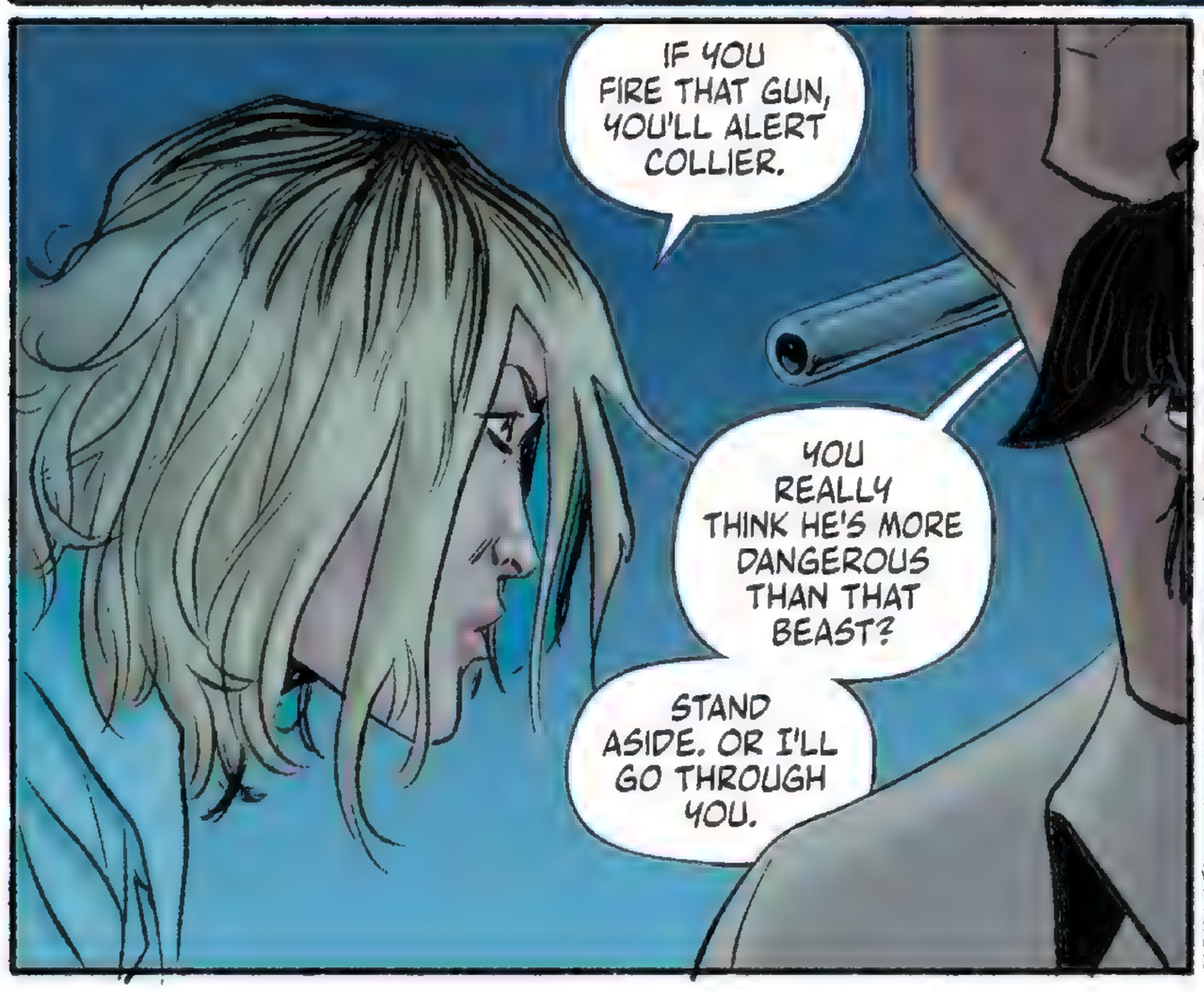

WE WAIT FOR SUNSET. CHRISTIANO KILLS THE ENGINE, AND WE DRIFT INTO THE BLACK LAGOON SILENT AS THE CURRENT.
IT ISN'T DIFFICULT TO LOCATE COLLIER. HE ISN'T HIDING.
THIS PLACE IS SO SECLUDED-- SO DEEP IN THE AMAZON. WHO WOULD EVER FIND HIM HERE?
WHO WOULD BE LOOKING FOR MONSTERS AMONG THIS TRANQUILLITY?
KATE? ARE YOU OK?
I, UH...
CHRISTIANO.

CAN YOU SEE THAT, TOO?
IS IT REALLY THERE?


THE CREATURE.
MY GOD. I SEE IT. IT'S COMING TOWARDS THE BOAT.
IT... REALLY COULD BE TRUE.

THE CREATURE IS FOLLOWING US... FOLLOWING YOU.
MOVE ASIDE.

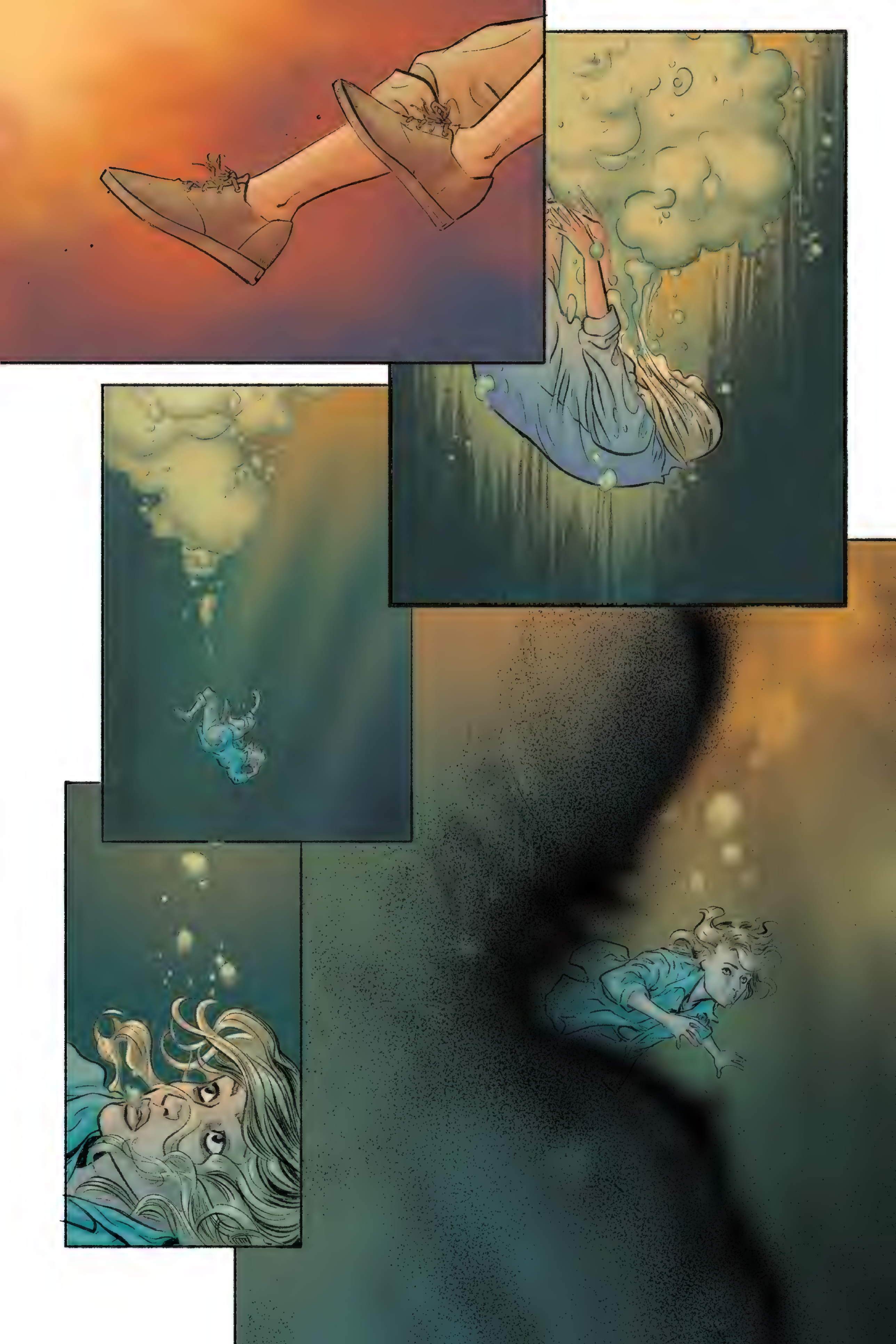
NO CHANCE.
WE'RE HERE FOR A REASON.
THE CREATURE IS DANGEROUS. I'M TRYING TO SAVE US.

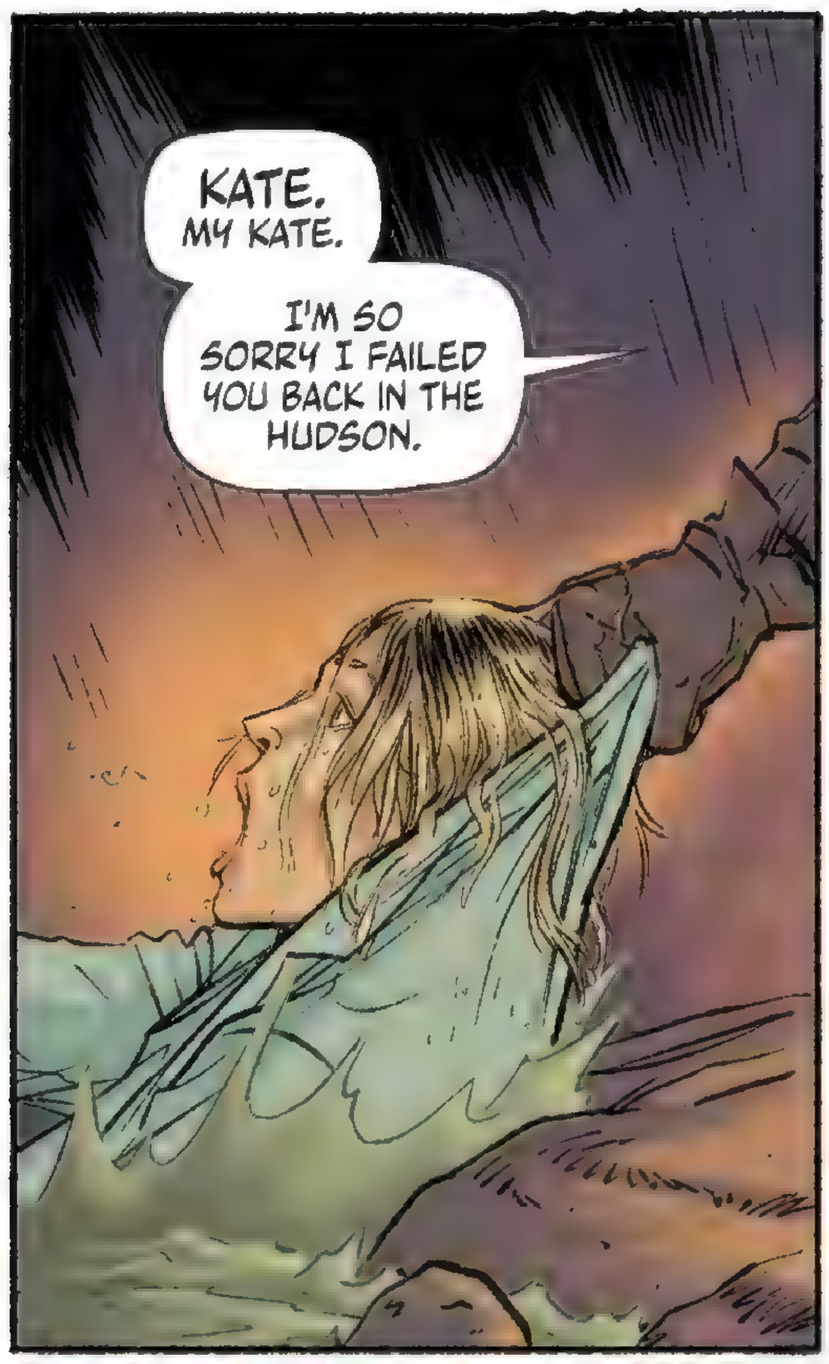

IF YOU FIRE THAT GUN, YOU'LL ALERT COLLIER.
YOU REALLY THINK HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN THAT BEAST?
STAND ASIDE. OR I'LL GO THROUGH YOU.

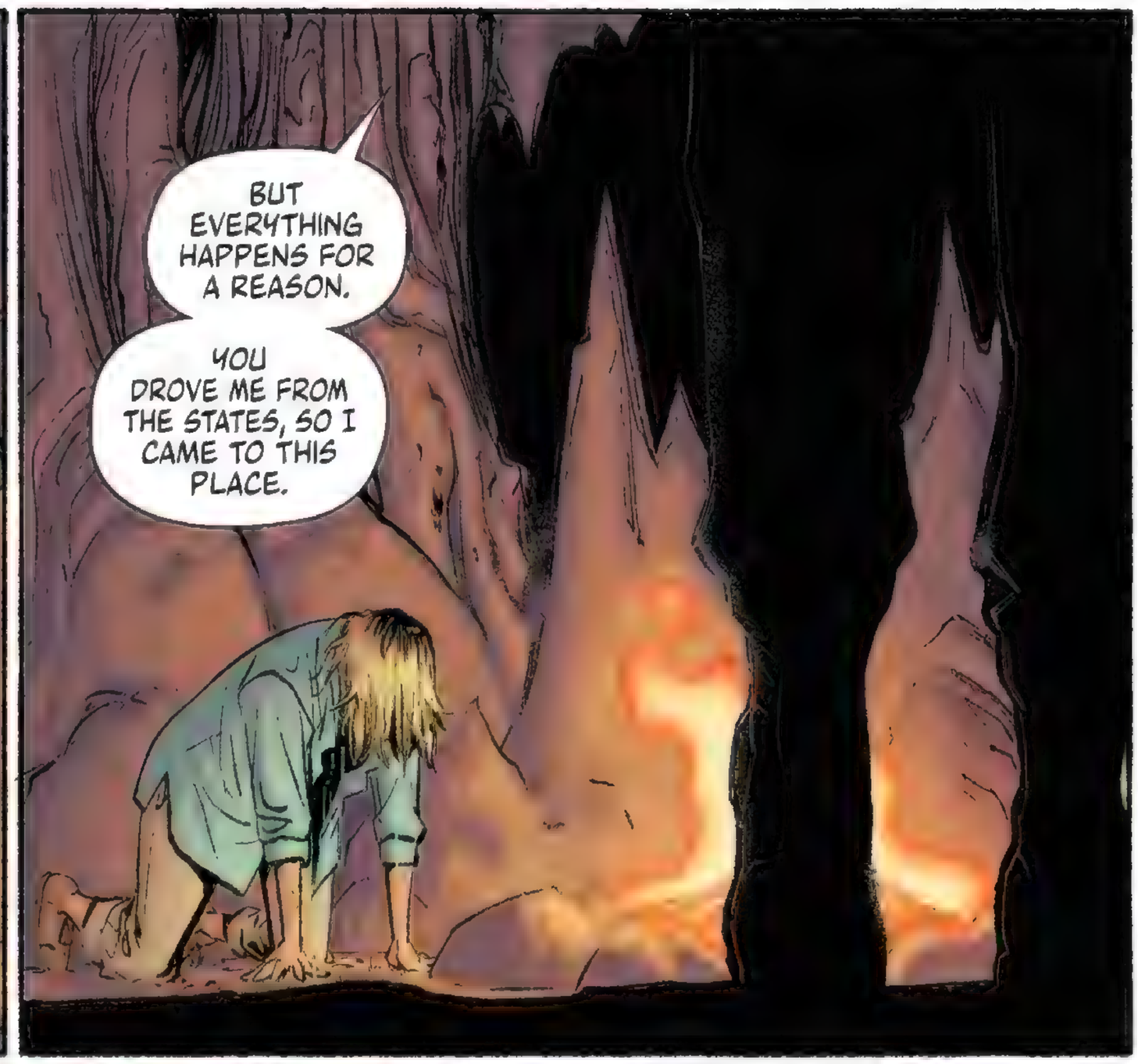
SHUT UP. BOTH OF YOU.

IT'S NOT THE CREATURE.
MY GOD...
...IT'S A TRAP.

HE'S HERE.
THE BASTARD'S HERE!

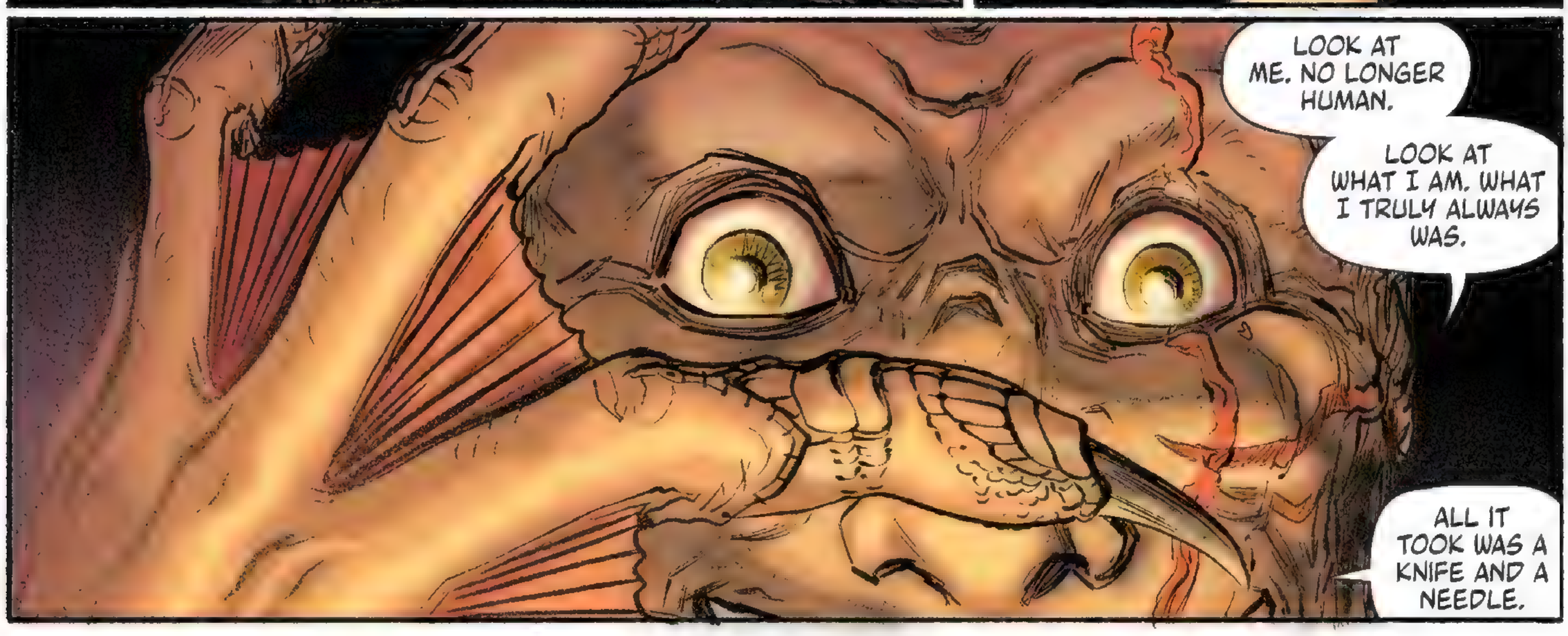



KATE.
MY KATE.
I'M SO SORRY I FAILED YOU BACK IN THE HUDSON.

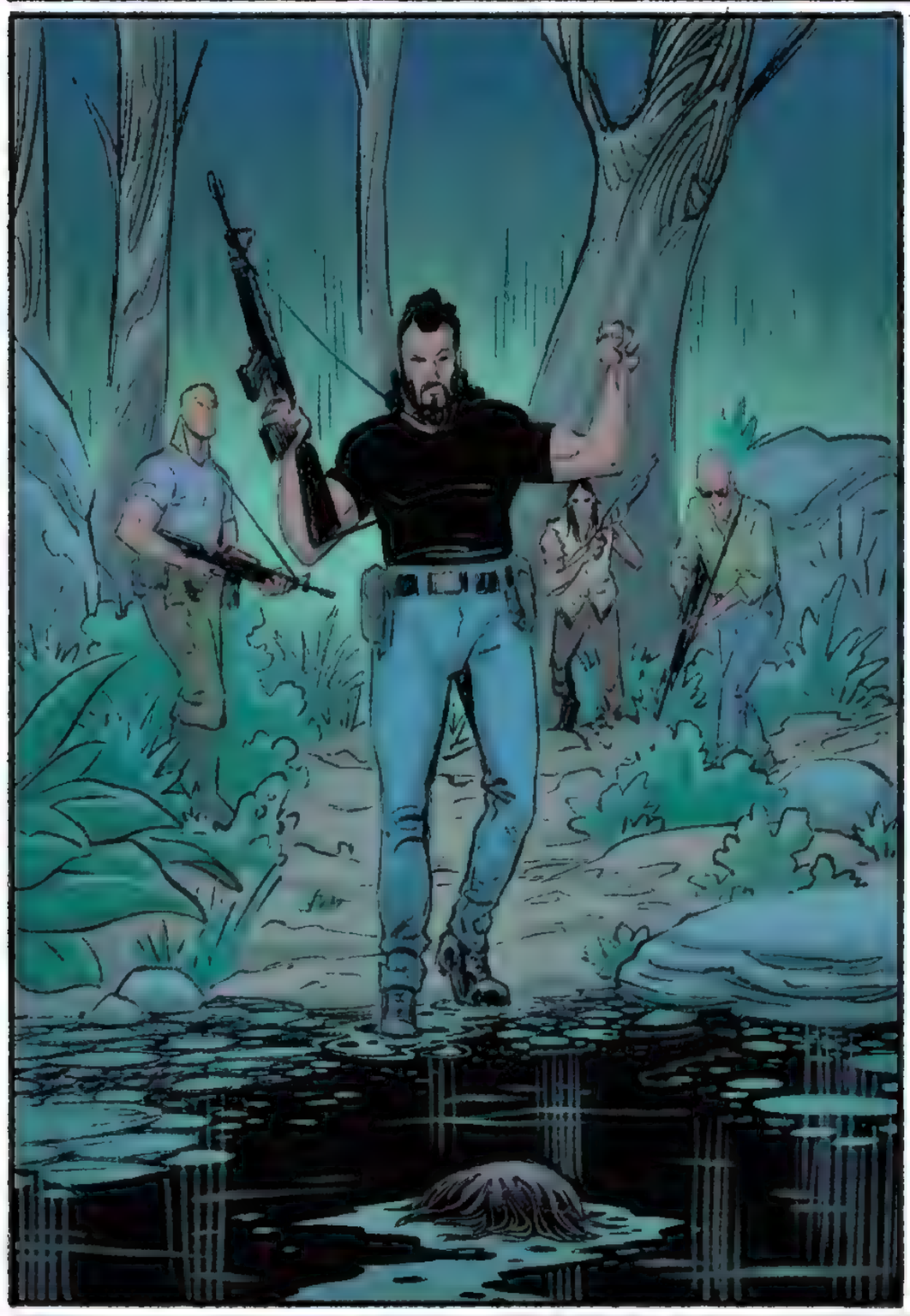

BUT EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON.
YOU DROVE ME FROM THE STATES, SO I CAME TO THIS PLACE.

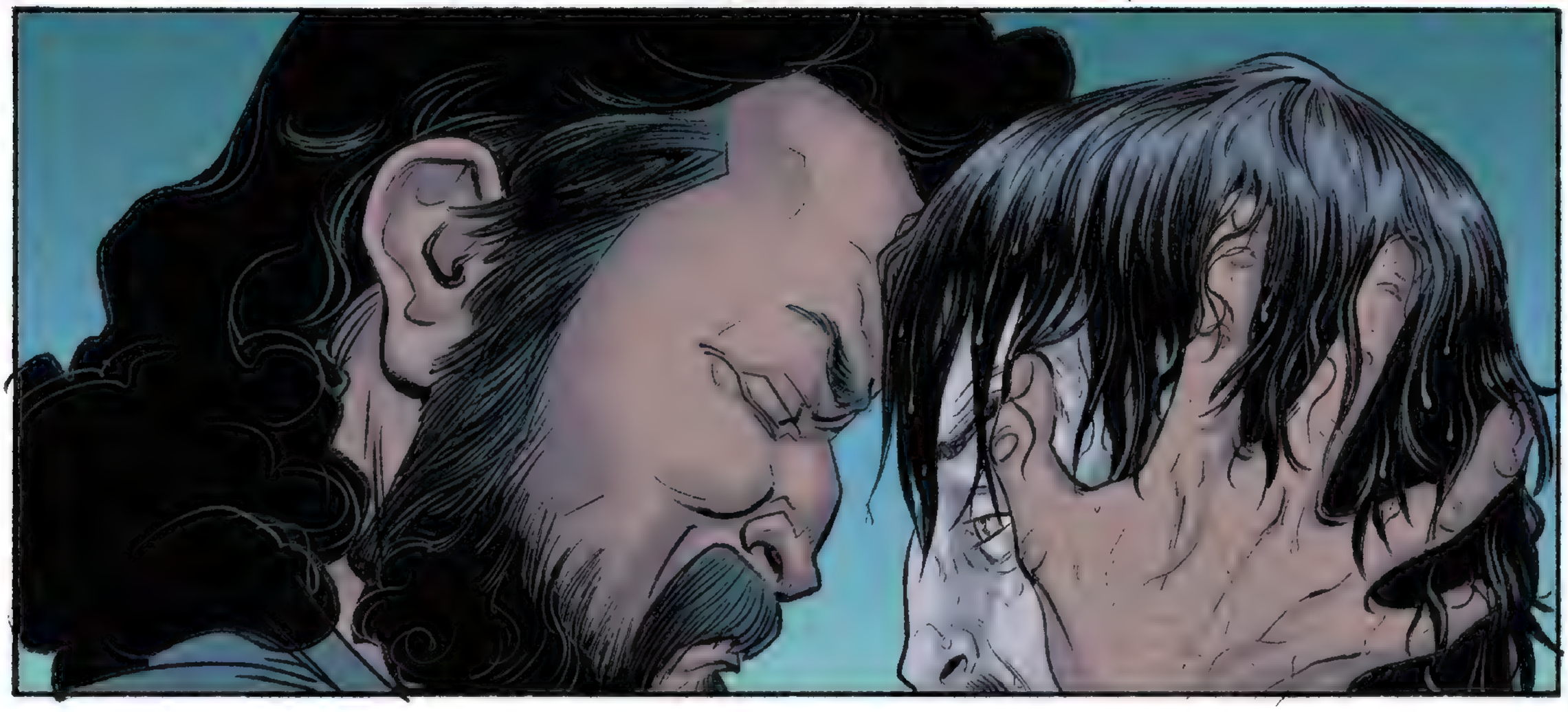
I HAD SEEN IT IN MY DREAMS. THIS LAGOON. AND CIPACTLI, WHO DWELLED HERE.

MY KATE. YOU HELPED ME SLOUGH OFF THE SKIN THAT HID ME. TO REVEAL MY TRUE SELF.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO YOURSELF?


LOOK AT ME. NO LONGER HUMAN.
LOOK AT WHAT I AM. WHAT I TRULY ALWAYS WAS.
ALL IT TOOK WAS A KNIFE AND A NEEDLE.

GAZE UPON THE
CREATURE
FROM THE
BLACK
LAGOON.



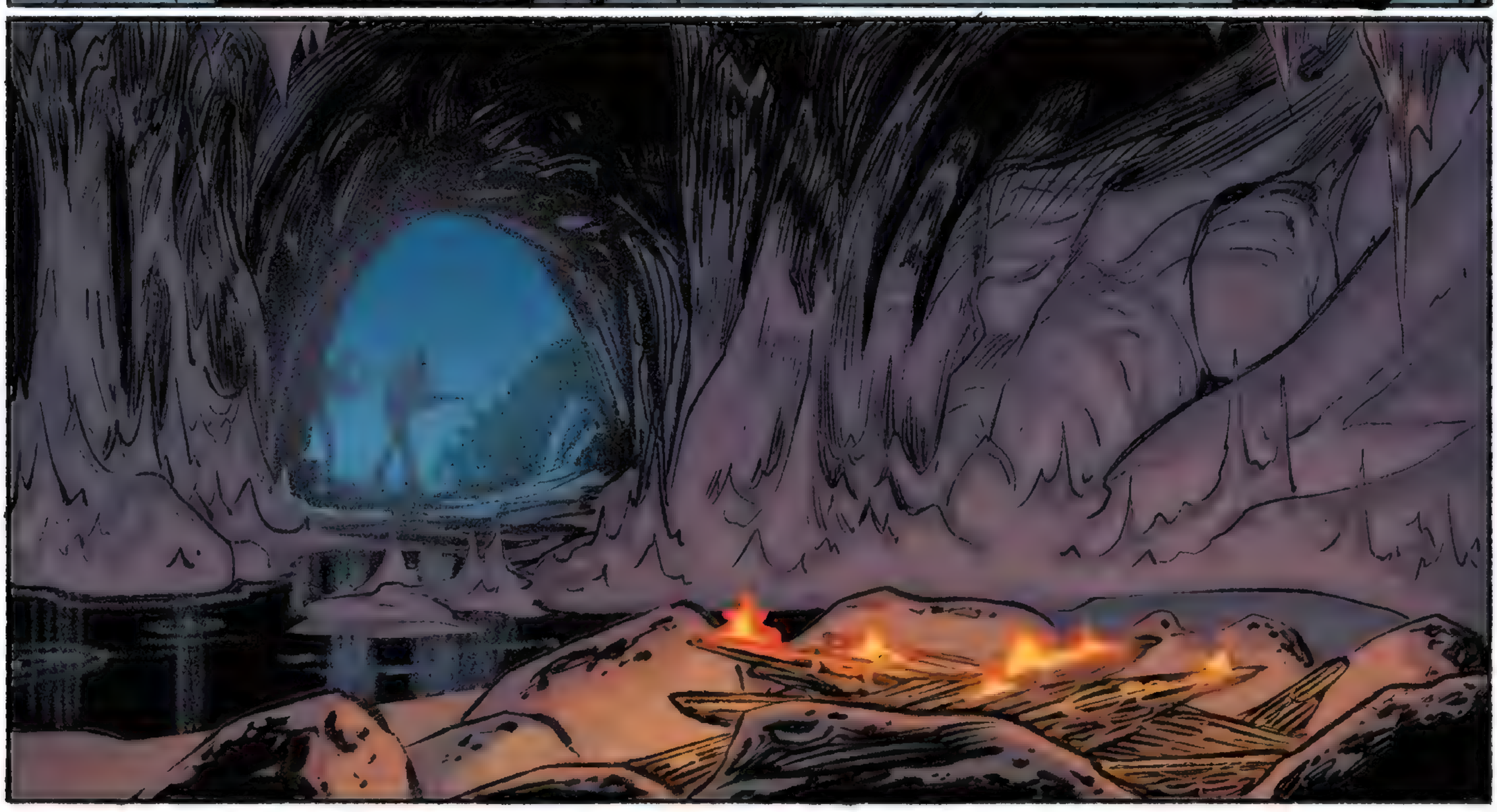


DARWIN COLLIER DID THIS TO PAULO.

HE HAS BEEN PLAYING US FOR FOOLS.

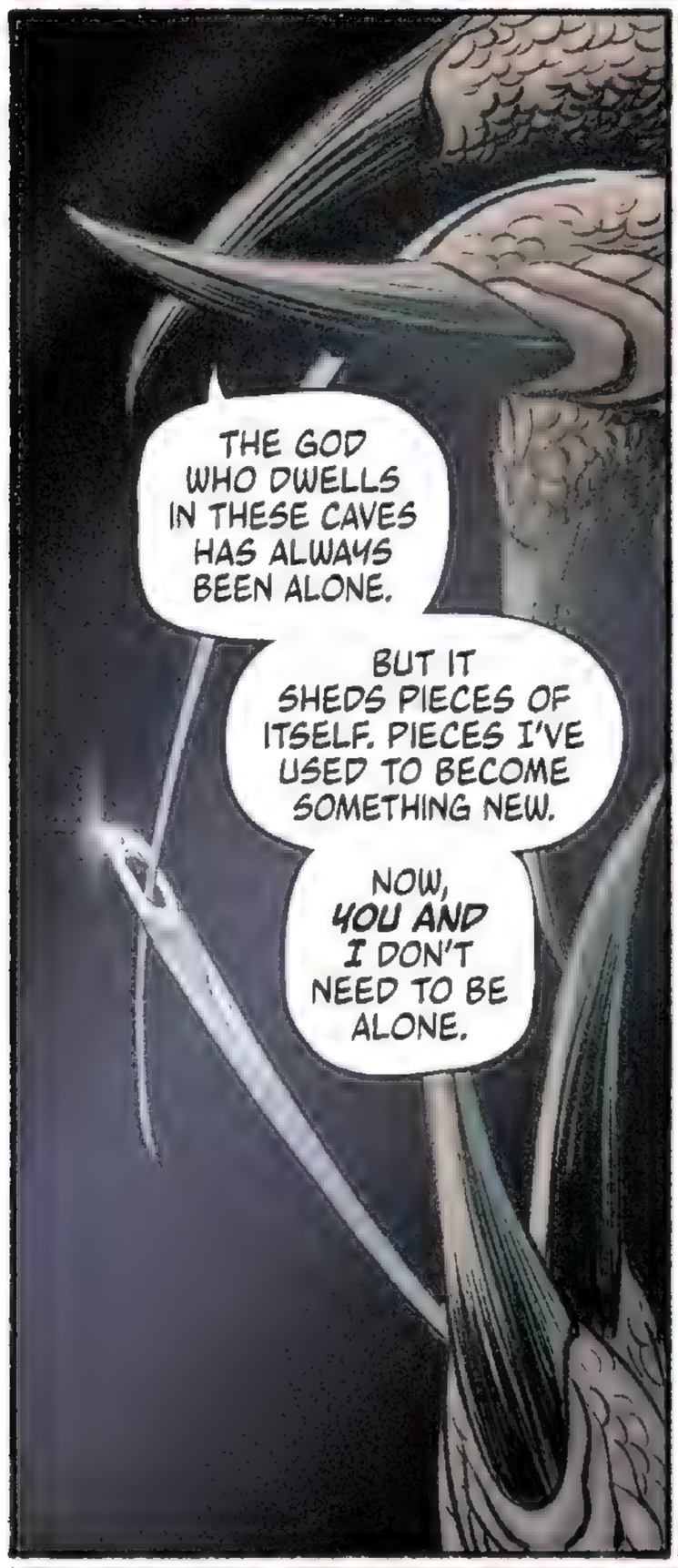
THE RAINFOREST SIMPLY ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US ANY-MORE.

LET'S SHOOT HIM IN THE HEAD AND BE DONE WITH IT.



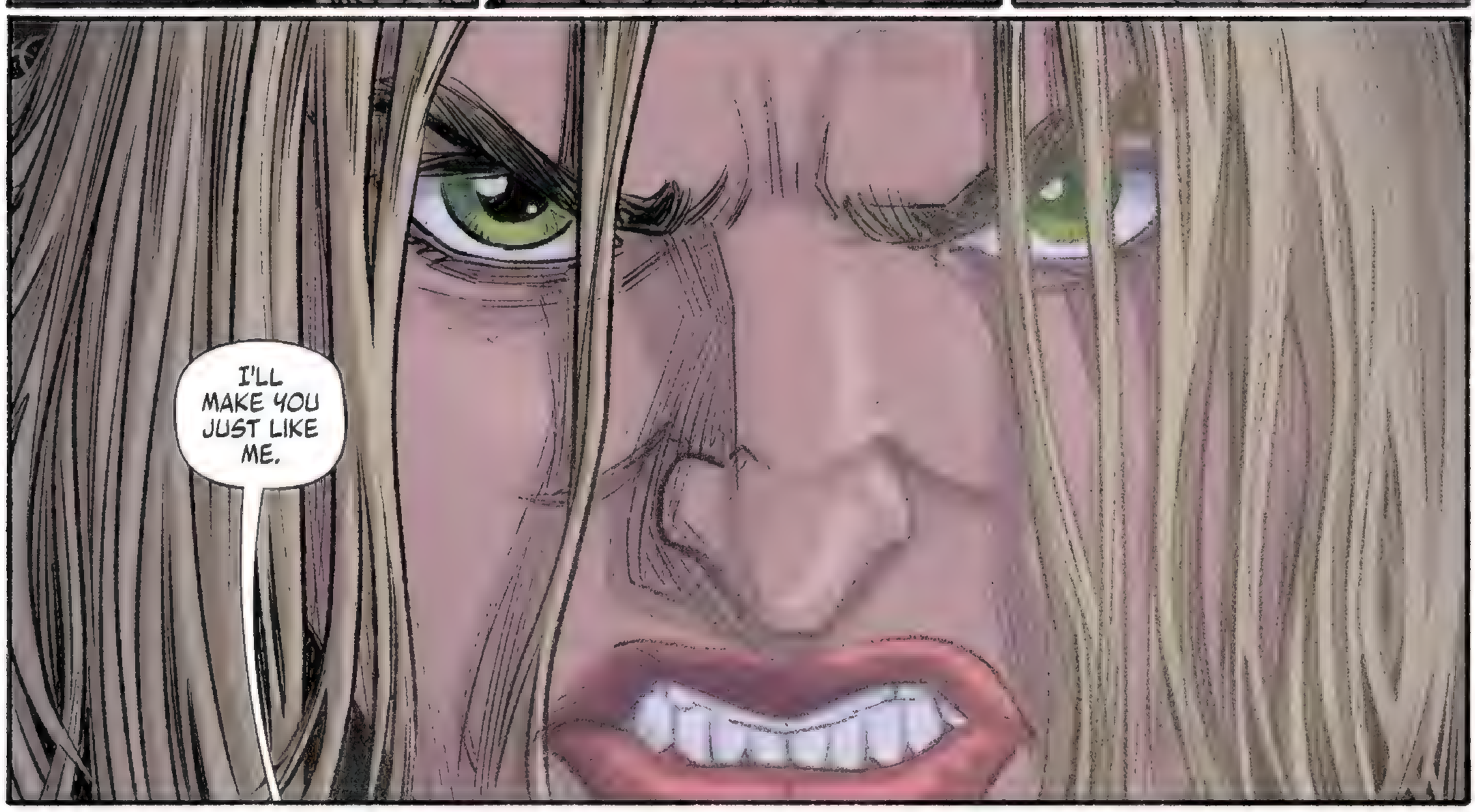
I ALWAYS CHOSE THE ONES WITH THE OCEAN IN THEIR EYES. THAT DESIRE TO RETURN TO WHERE OUR ANCESTORS CRAWLED OUT OF.
WE WERE MEANT TO BE LESS THAN HUMAN. MORE THAN HUMAN.
IT WAS UP TO ME TO TRANSFORM THEM.
BUT I WAS ALWAYS DISAPPOINTED WHEN I HELD THEM UNDER THE WATER.
THEY ALWAYS DROWNED WITHOUT DIGNITY. FLAILING AND THRASHING.

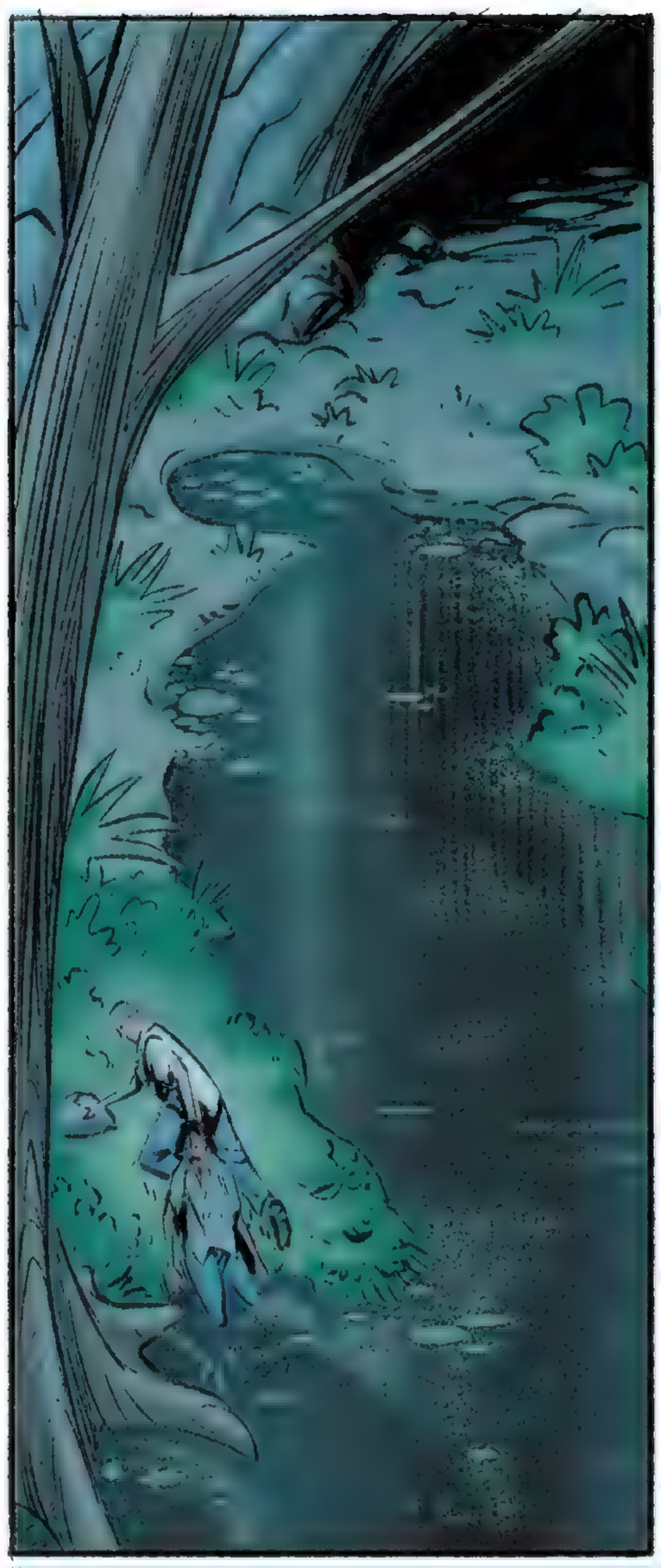
UNTIL YOU, MY KATE.
YOU LIVED. AND YOU FOLLOWED ME ACROSS AN ENTIRE CONTINENT.


THE GOD WHO DWELLS IN THESE CAVES HAS ALWAYS BEEN ALONE.
BUT IT SHEDS PIECES OF ITSELF. PIECES I'VE USED TO BECOME SOMETHING NEW.
NOW, YOU AND I DON'T NEED TO BE ALONE.

UNDER YOUR SKIN, YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME.

NOW WE WILL BRING IT TO THE SURFACE.


I'LL MAKE YOU JUST LIKE ME.



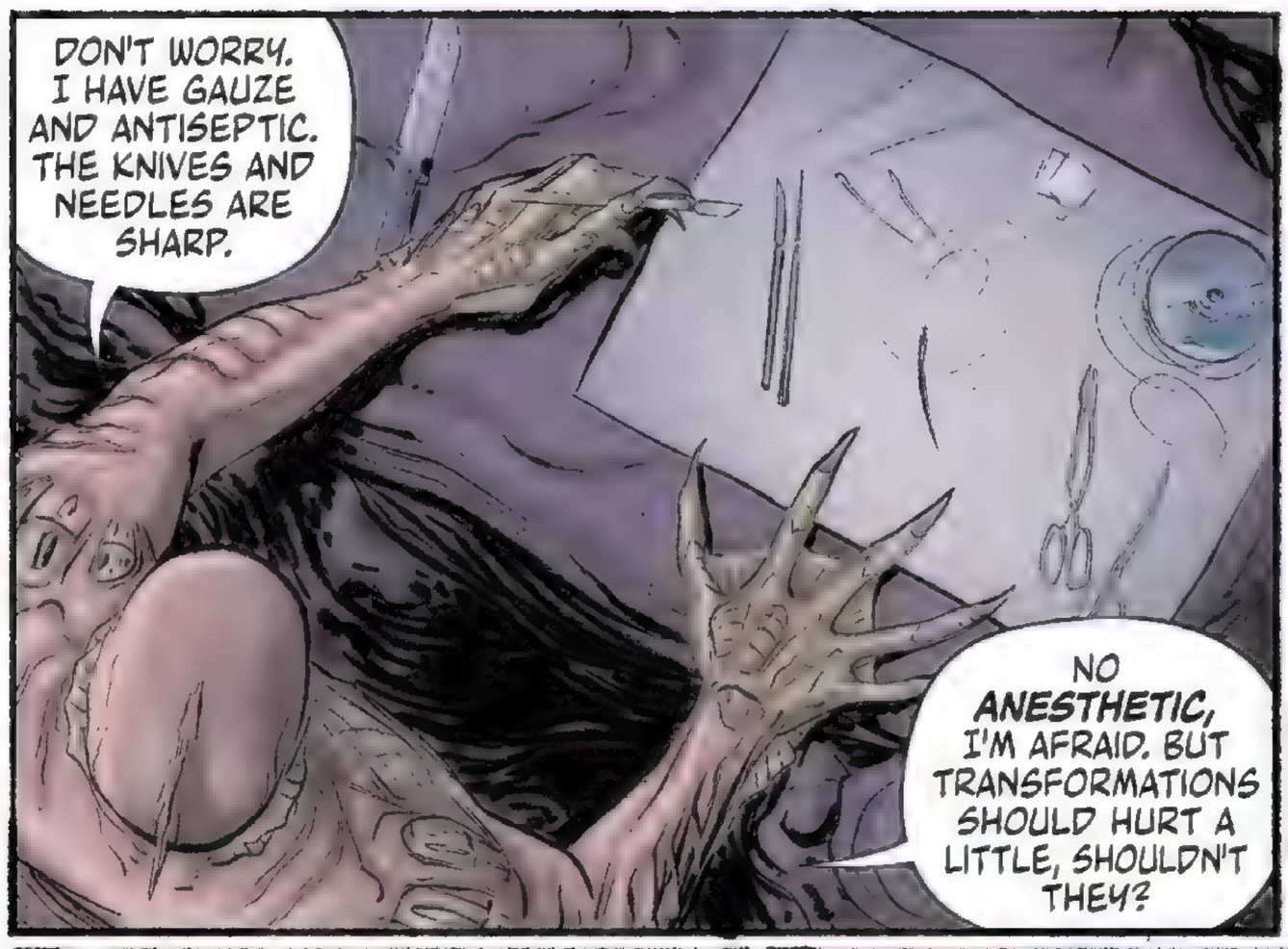
I'VE GOT YOU, CHRISTIANO.

PROFESSOR.
PROFESSOR, COLLIER TOOK KATE.
STAY AWAKE. YOU HAVE TO **STAY AWAKE.** YOU WERE UNDER A LONG TIME, AND YOU'RE LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD.

HERE. WE NEED TO PUT PRESSURE ON...

HRRRL
MY GOD.

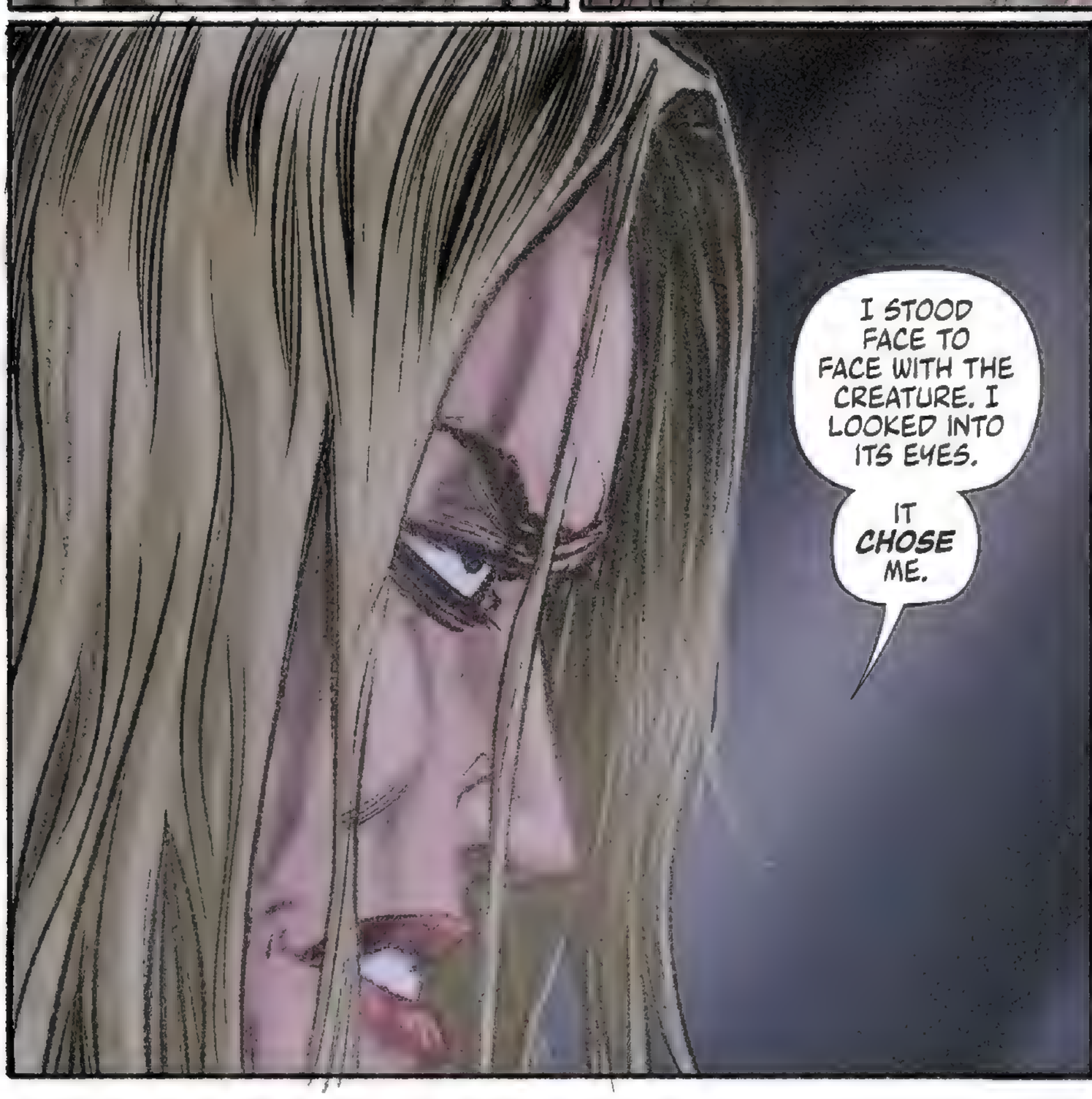
OH. OH, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
PROFESSOR THOMPSON.
PROFESSOR?
I'M SORRY, CHRISTIANO.
THOMPSON, DON'T LEAVE ME HERE!
I'M SORRY.


DON'T WORRY. I HAVE GAUZE AND ANTISEPTIC. THE KNIVES AND NEEDLES ARE SHARP.
NO ANESTHETIC, I'M AFRAID. BUT TRANSFORMATIONS SHOULD HURT A LITTLE, SHOULDN'T THEY?

WHAT? WHY ARE YOU SMILING?

YOU'VE SEEN THE CREATURE.
A SHAPE UNDER THE WATER. GLIMPSES THROUGH FISSURES IN THE ROCK, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL.

YOU'RE JUST FOLLOWING IT LIKE A PUPPY DOG.
LIKE A TODDLER IMITATING ITS PARENT.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING. THE WATER CHANGED ME.


I STOOD FACE TO FACE WITH THE CREATURE. I LOOKED INTO ITS EYES.
IT CHOSE ME.

OH YEAH?

"THEN WHERE IS IT NOW?"

THREE DECADES SINCE I LAID EYES ON YOU.

AND NOW I GET TO BE THE ONE TO REVEAL YOU TO THE WORLD.

YOU'D PUT ME ON THE FRONT OF EVERY SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL.

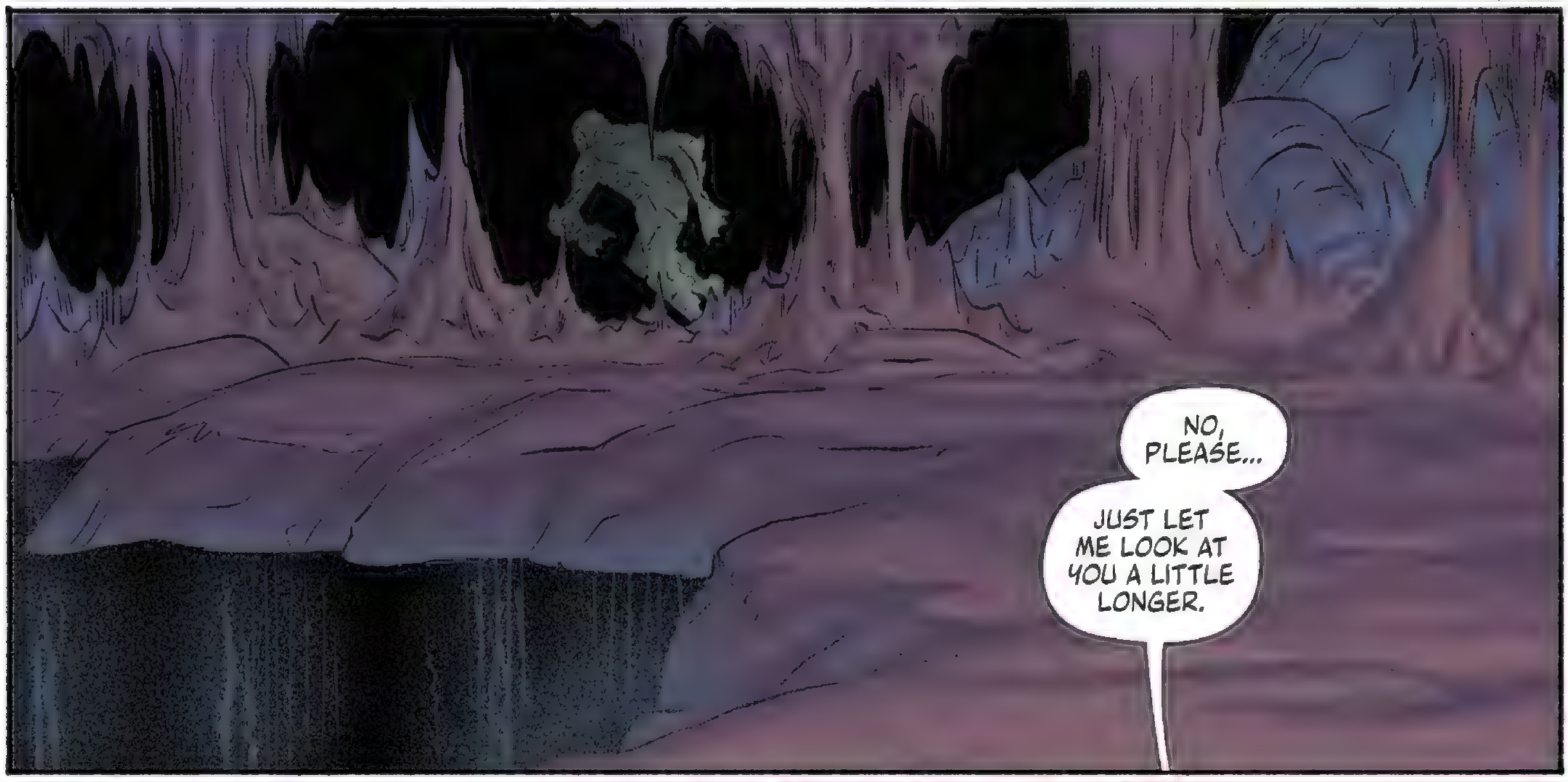
YOU'D TRULY GIVE ME BACK A LIFE AFTER ALL THOSE LOST DECADES I CHASED YOU.

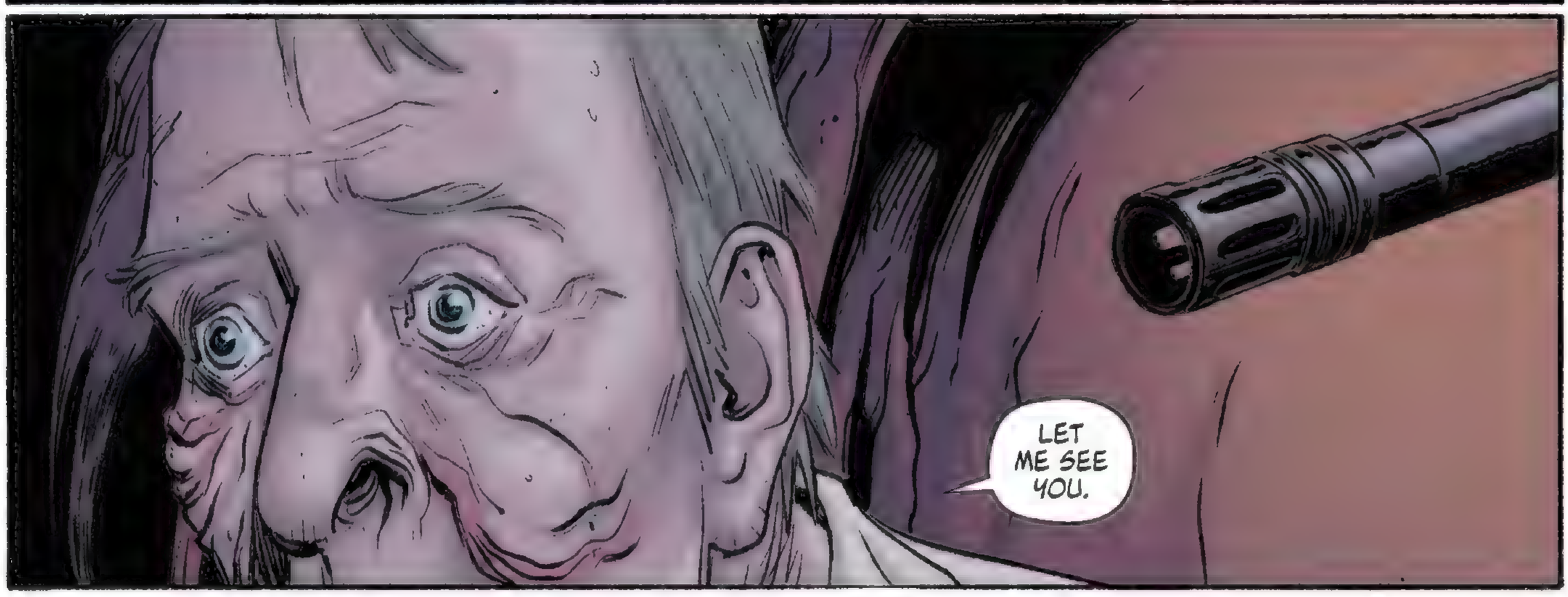
YOU'VE BECOME MY EVERY-THING...

AND LOOK AT YOU. OH LOOK AT YOU.
JUST SOME SAD, LONELY THING.

GOD, YOU'RE JUST SOME SAD LONELY THING.

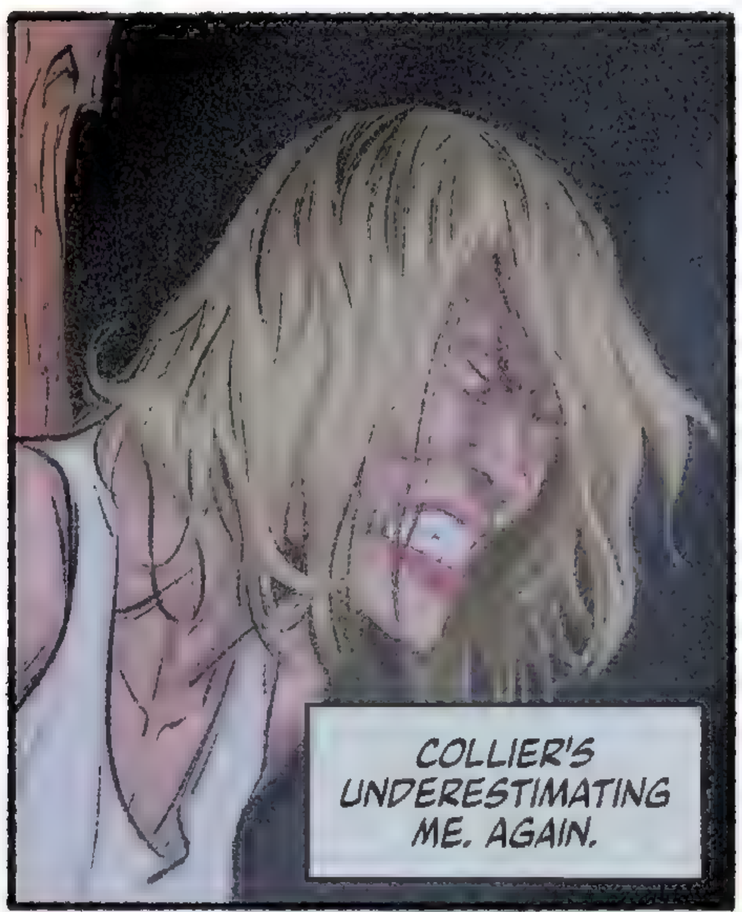
HRRRL

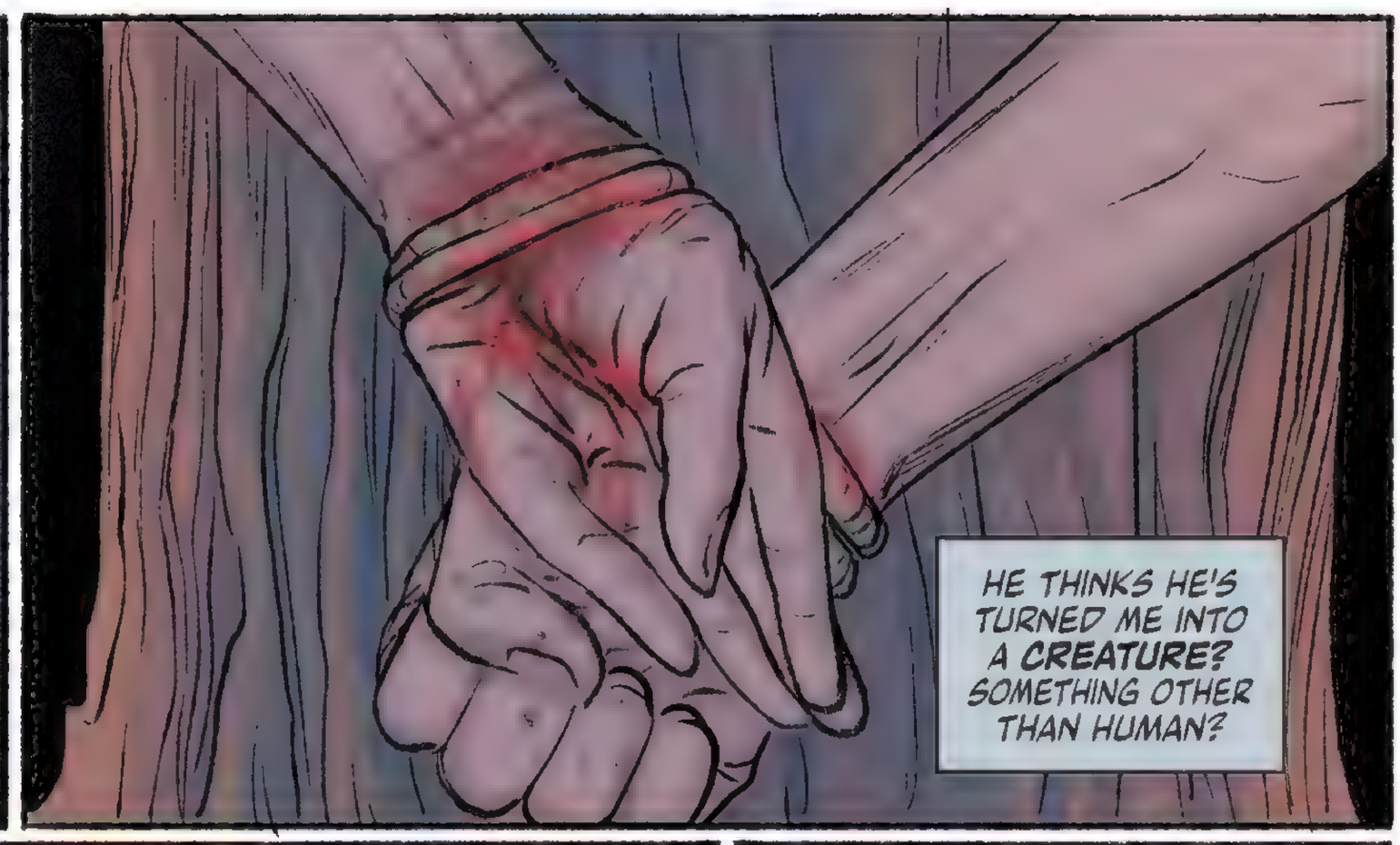

NO, PLEASE...
JUST LET ME LOOK AT YOU A LITTLE LONGER.

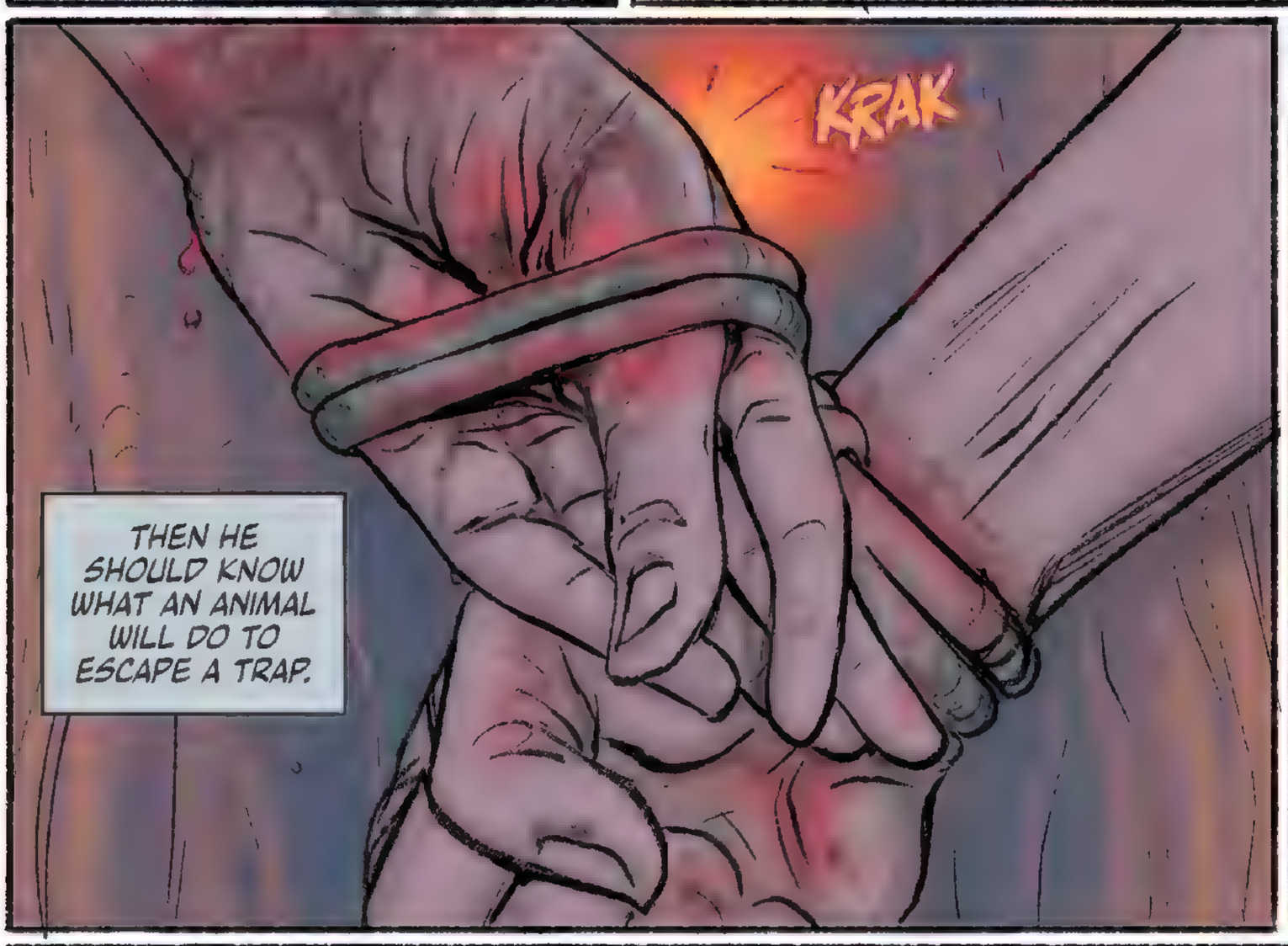

LET ME SEE YOU.

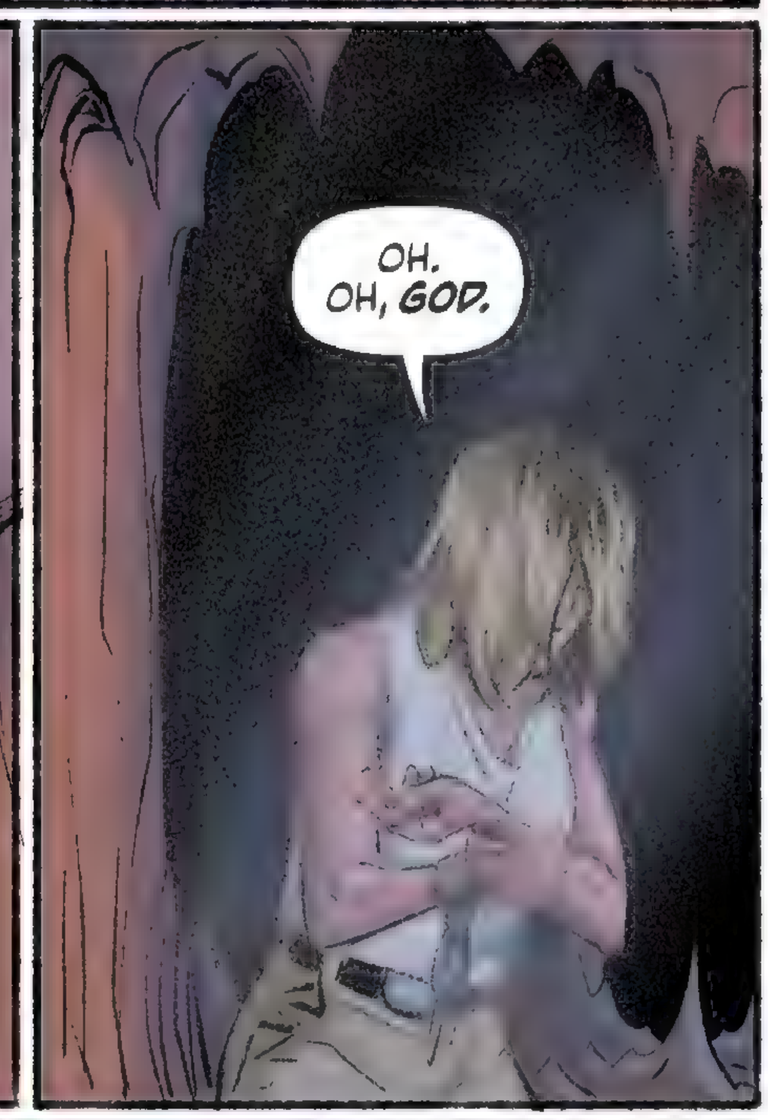
BLAAM
HMM.
SOUNDS LIKE VISITORS.
THESE CAVES ARE DEEPER THAN ANYONE MIGHT SUSPECT.
WE COULD JUST WAIT. THEY WON'T FIND US.
BUT ENOUGH HIDING.
THEY'RE INTERRUPTING SOMETHING SACRED.
WAIT FOR ME A MOMENT, MY KATE.
THEY MUST LEARN TO FEAR THE CREATURE OF THE BLACK LAGOON.

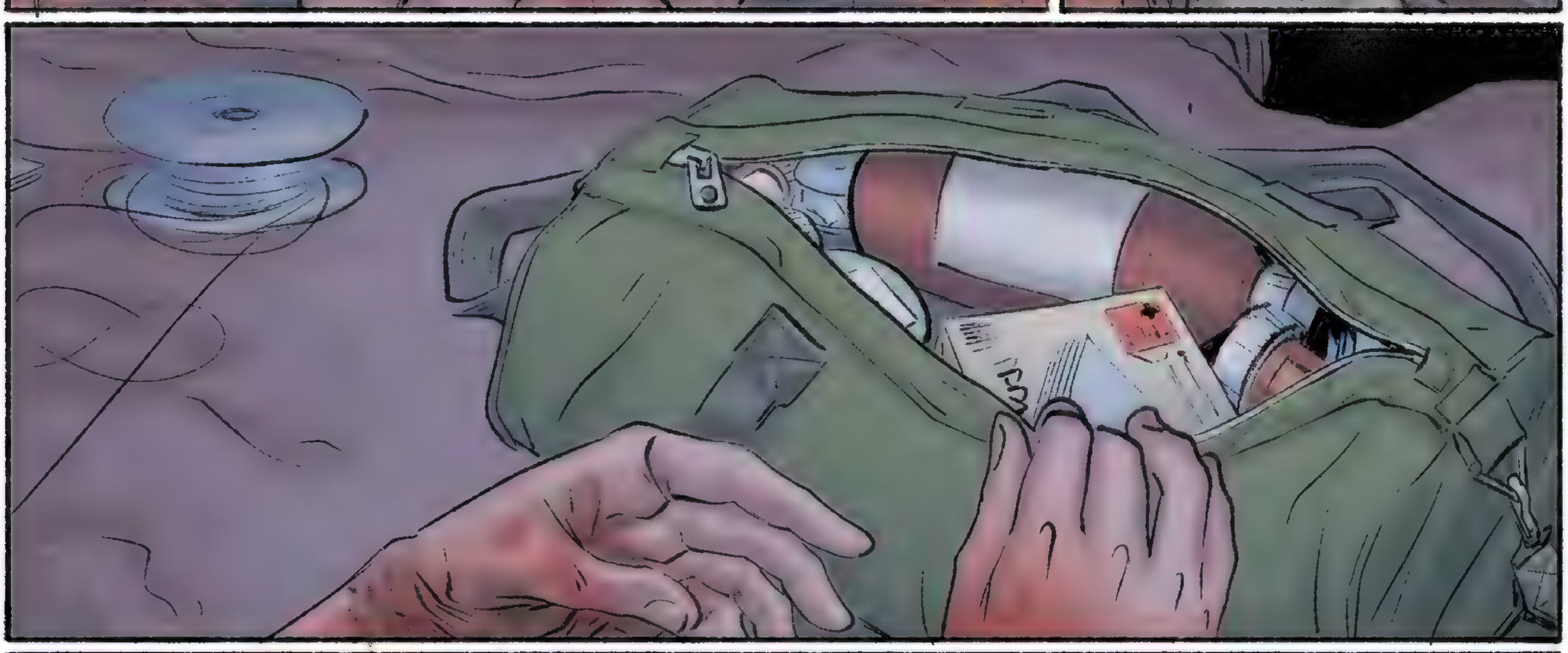
THIS ISN'T COLLIER.
THE OTHER AMERICAN.
THE ONE FROM THE LAB.
WAS HE WORKING WITH COLLIER?
MAYBE.
WHO GIVES A DAMN?

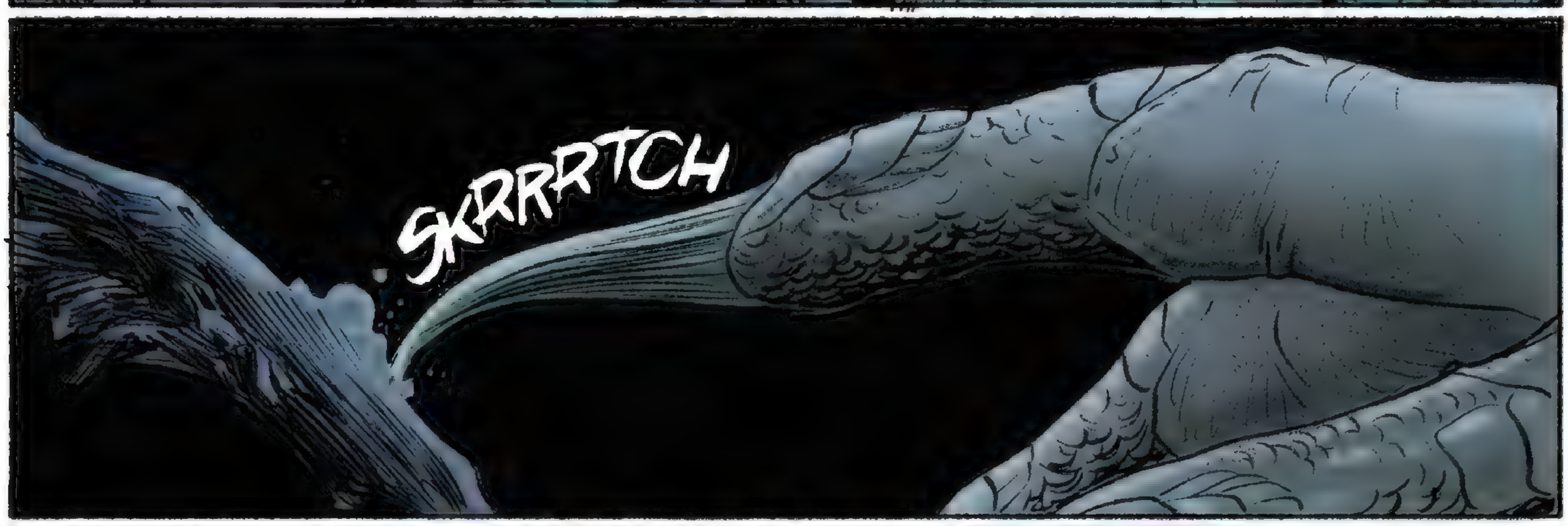

COLLIER'S UNDERESTIMATING ME. AGAIN.


HE THINKS HE'S TURNED ME INTO A CREATURE? SOMETHING OTHER THAN HUMAN?


KRAK
THEN HE SHOULD KNOW WHAT AN ANIMAL WILL DO TO ESCAPE A TRAP.

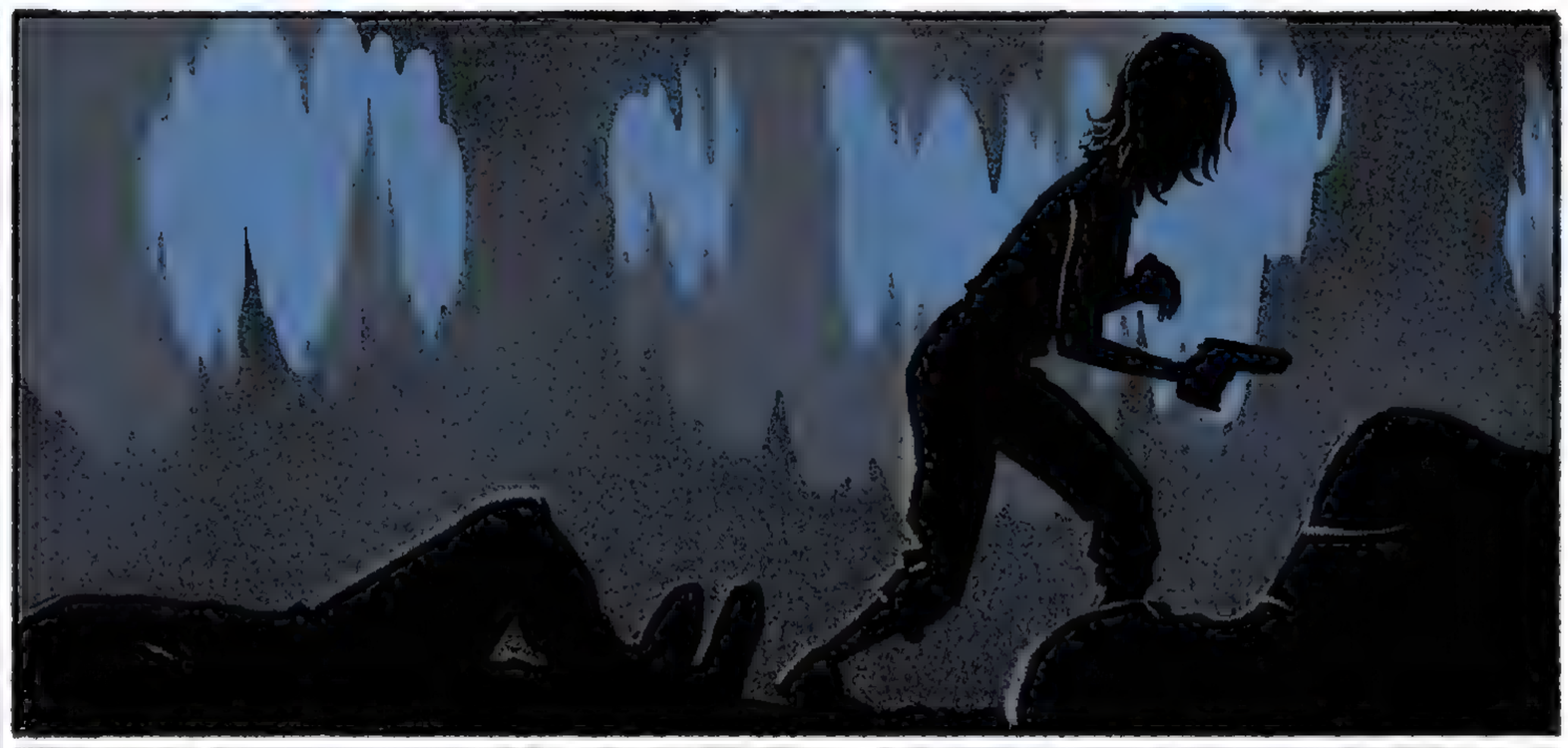

OH. OH, GOD.

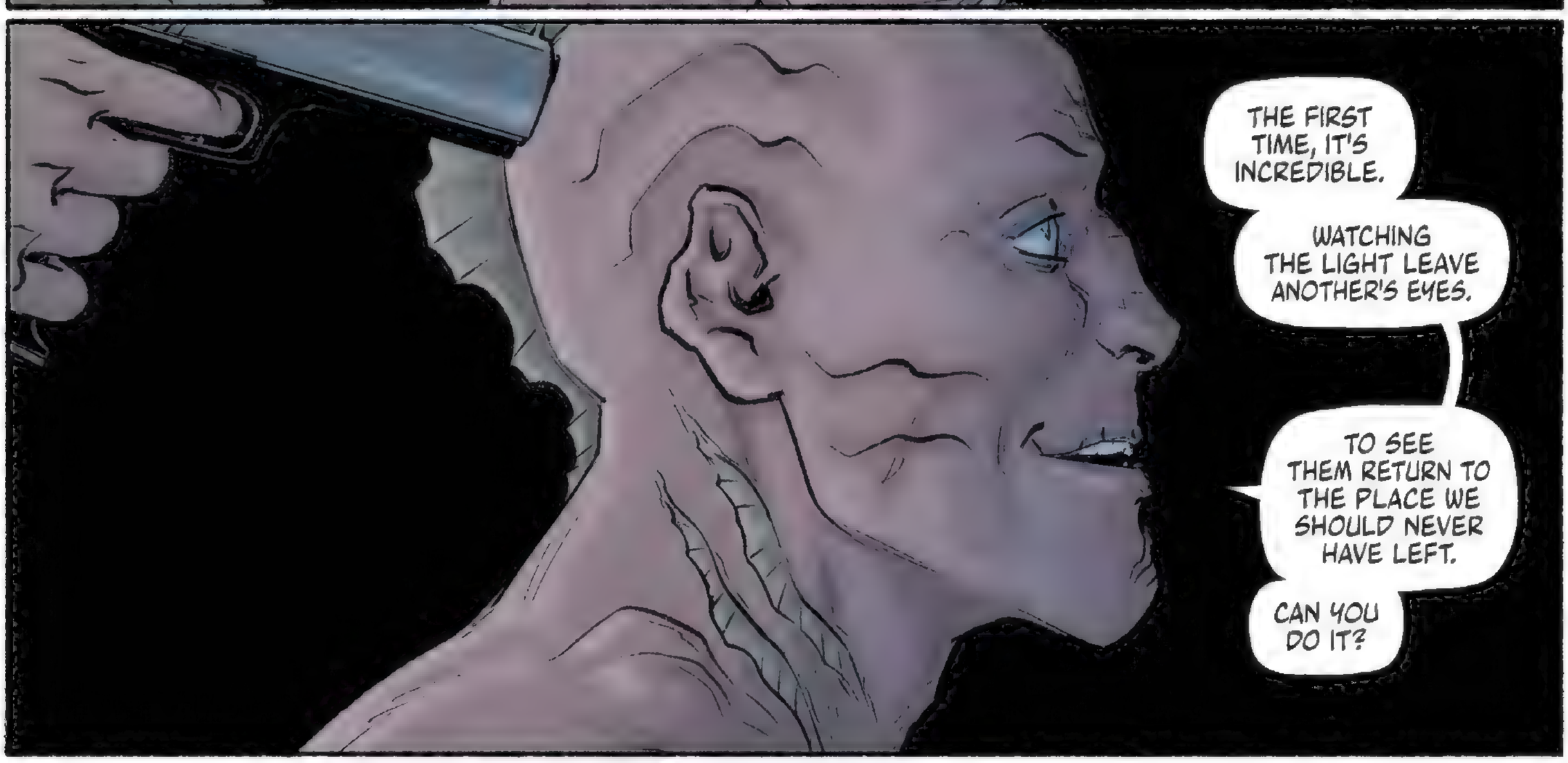



SKRRRTCH

THE SUN IS BEGINNING TO RISE OVER THE BLACK LAGOON.

WITHOUT MEANING TO, I'VE RETRACED THE STEPS COLLIER AND I TOOK, BACK TO THE BEGINNING.
THE SKY IS WARM AND INVITING. I FEEL THE ABYSS YAWNING AT MY BACK.
FOR A MOMENT I CONSIDER THAT I COULD JUST LEAVE. I COULD VANISH AND NEVER COME BACK.
AND THEN I HEAR GUNSHOTS, AND I HEAR SCREAMS.
AND I KNOW I CANNOT ESCAPE UNTIL COLLIER IS DEAD.
I WALK SLOWLY, AS SILENTLY AS I CAN.
THERE'S NO RUSH.
THE SUNRISE WILL WAIT.
PLEASE...
...ANYONE...

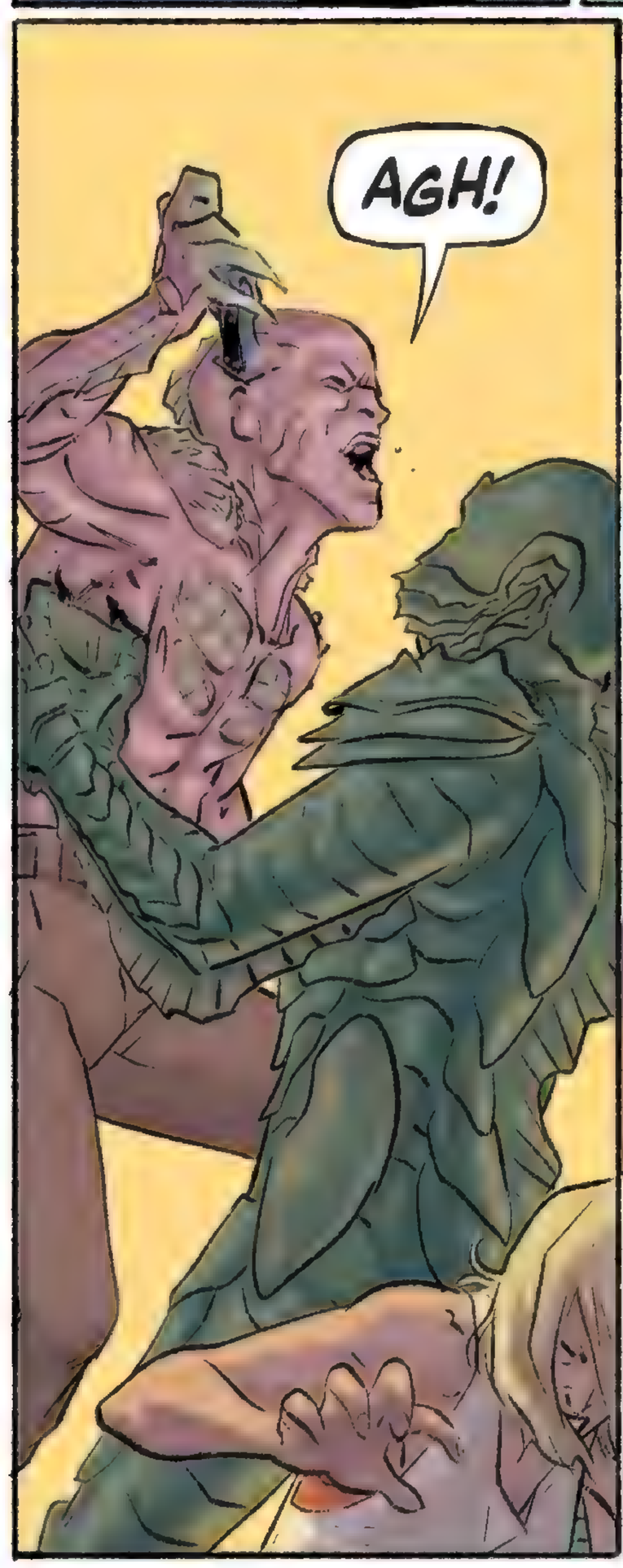



THE FIRST TIME, IT'S INCREDIBLE.
WATCHING THE LIGHT LEAVE ANOTHER'S EYES.
TO SEE THEM RETURN TO THE PLACE WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT.
CAN YOU DO IT?

AAAGH!
PLAAM
HRRRRRL

OH, MY KATE. YOU DIDN'T LIE.
IT'S BEAUTI--

HRRRL


AGH!

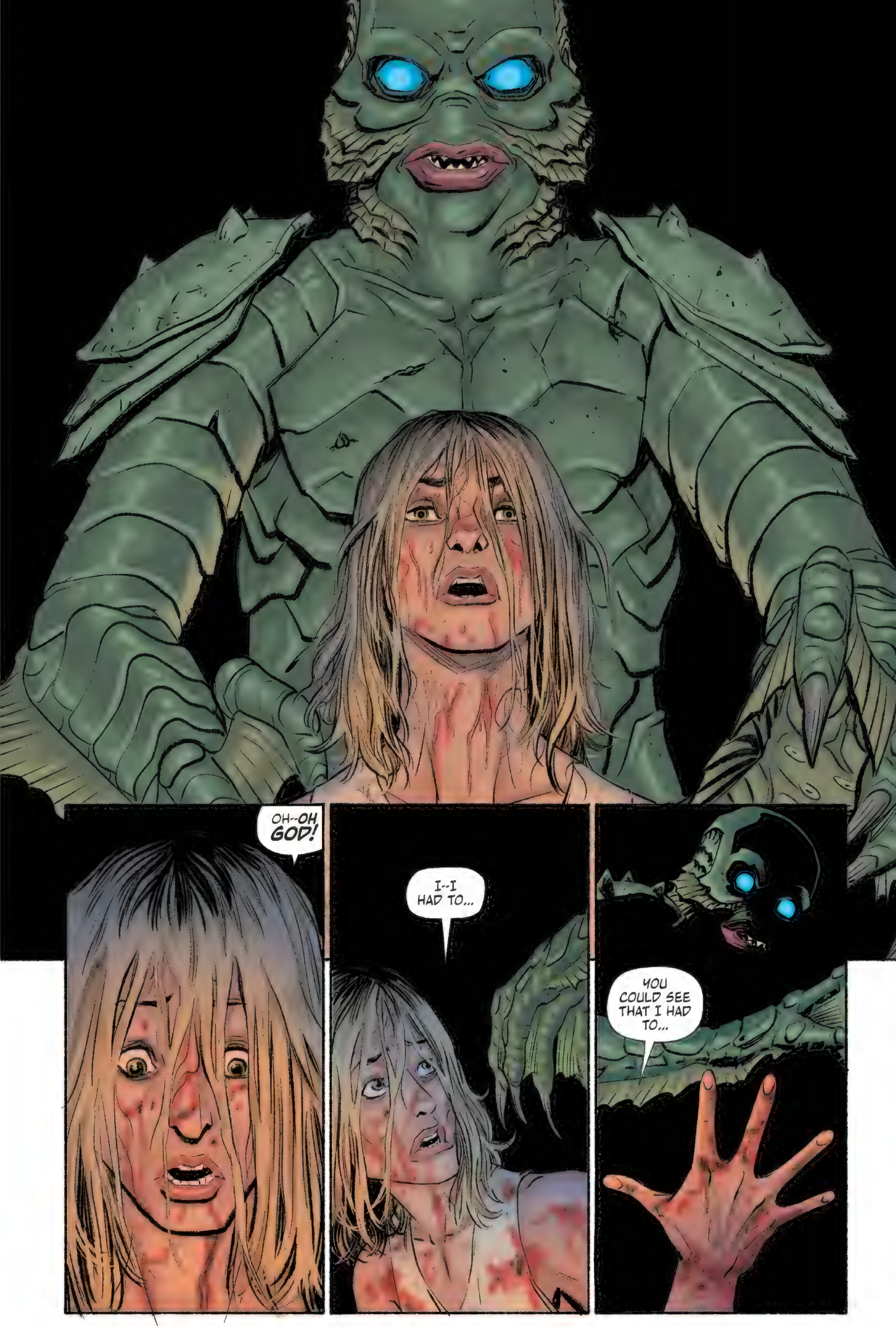
HRRRP

UUGH-
AGH!

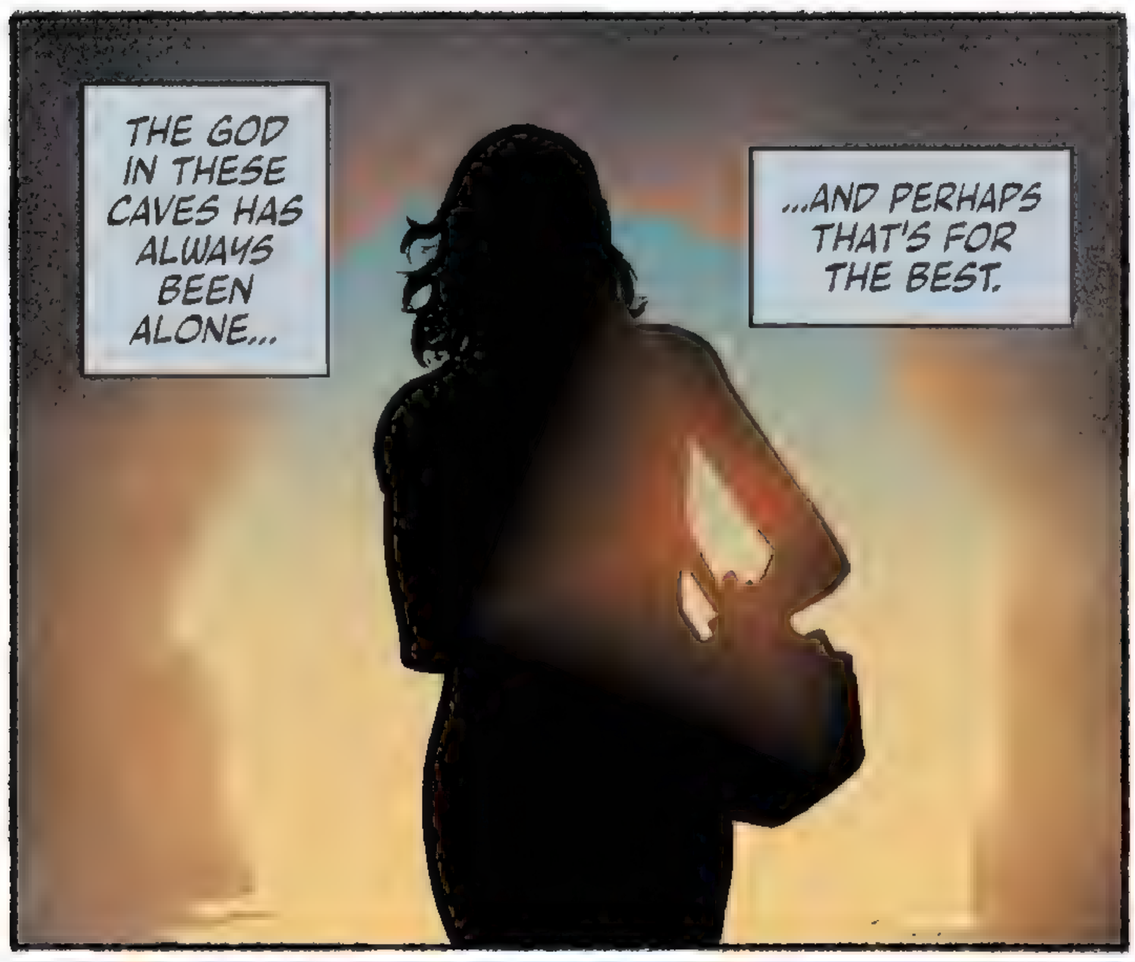
HUGGGH!

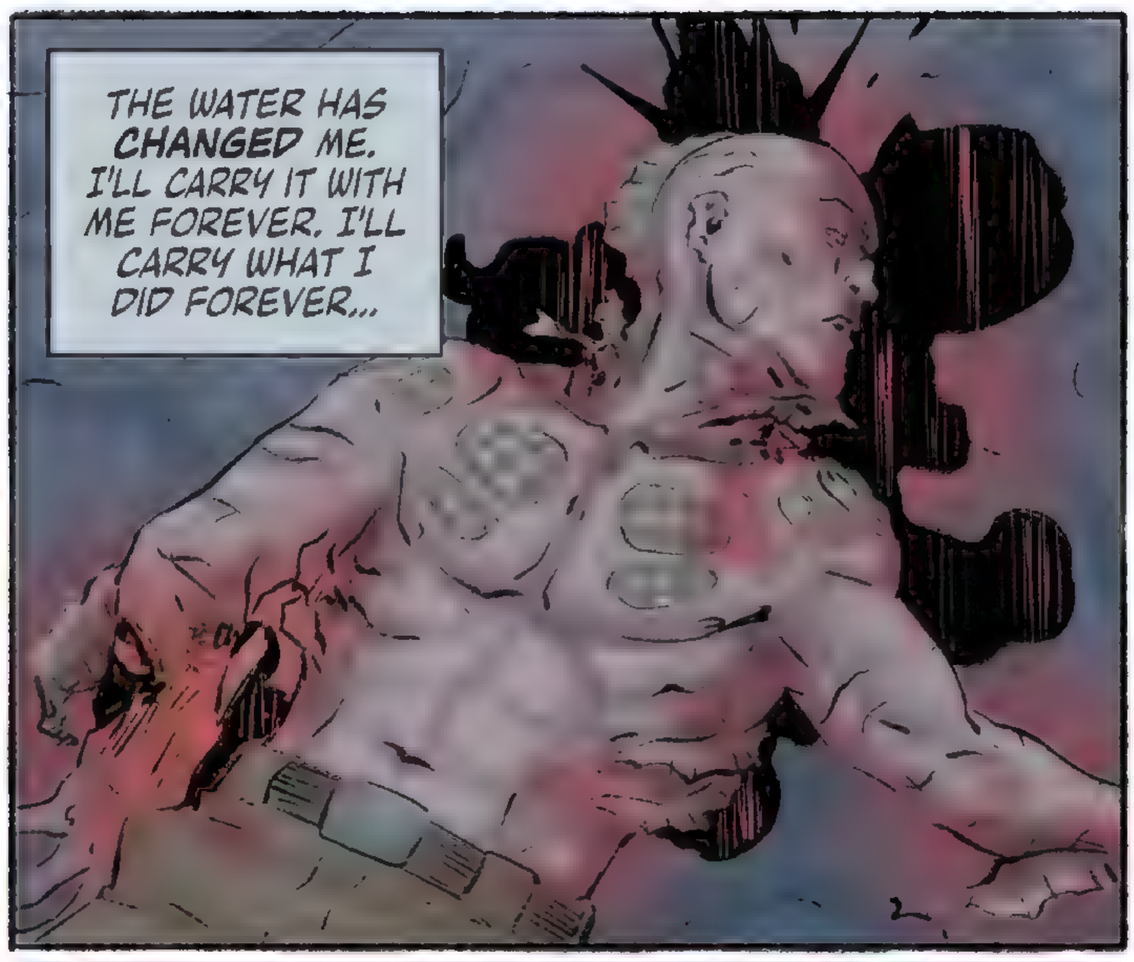
H-H-
HELP...
...MUH...

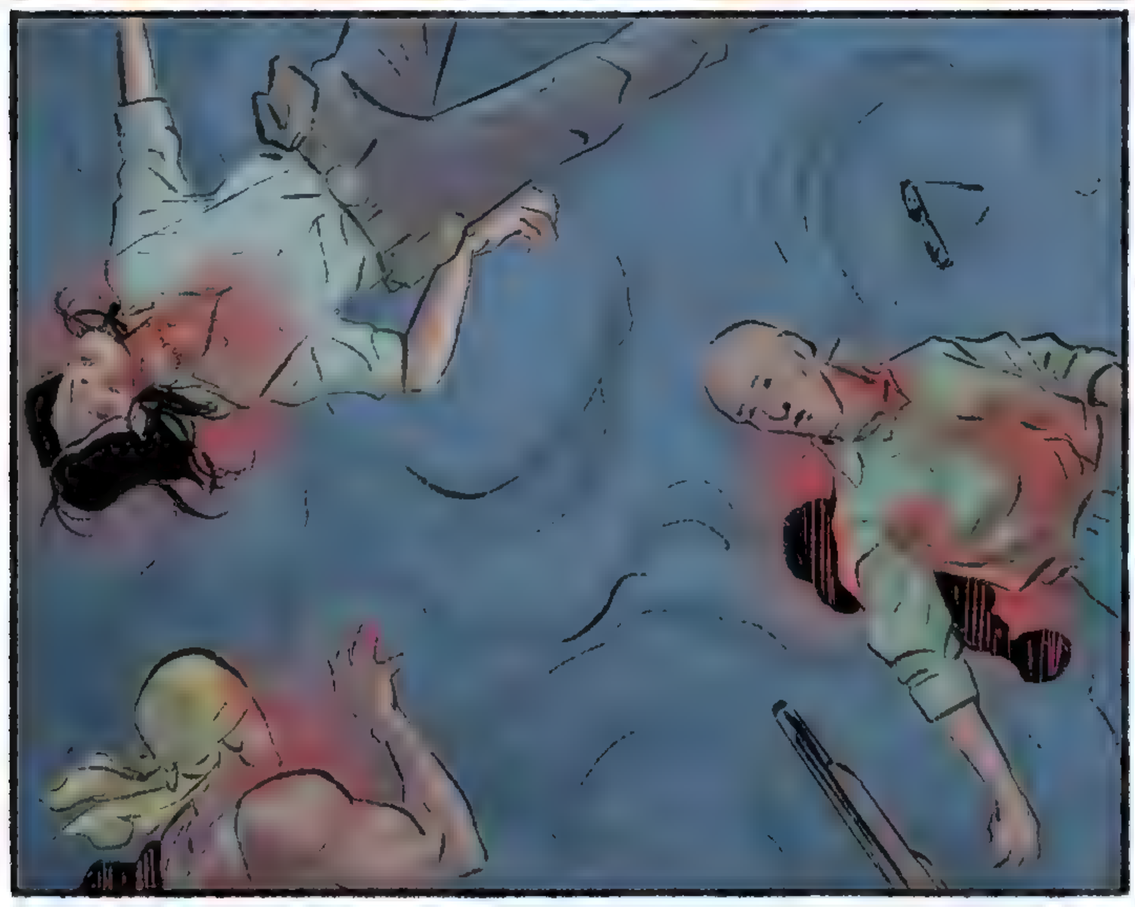
BLAM
I CAN'T DO IT?
YOU THINK I CAN'T DO IT?!

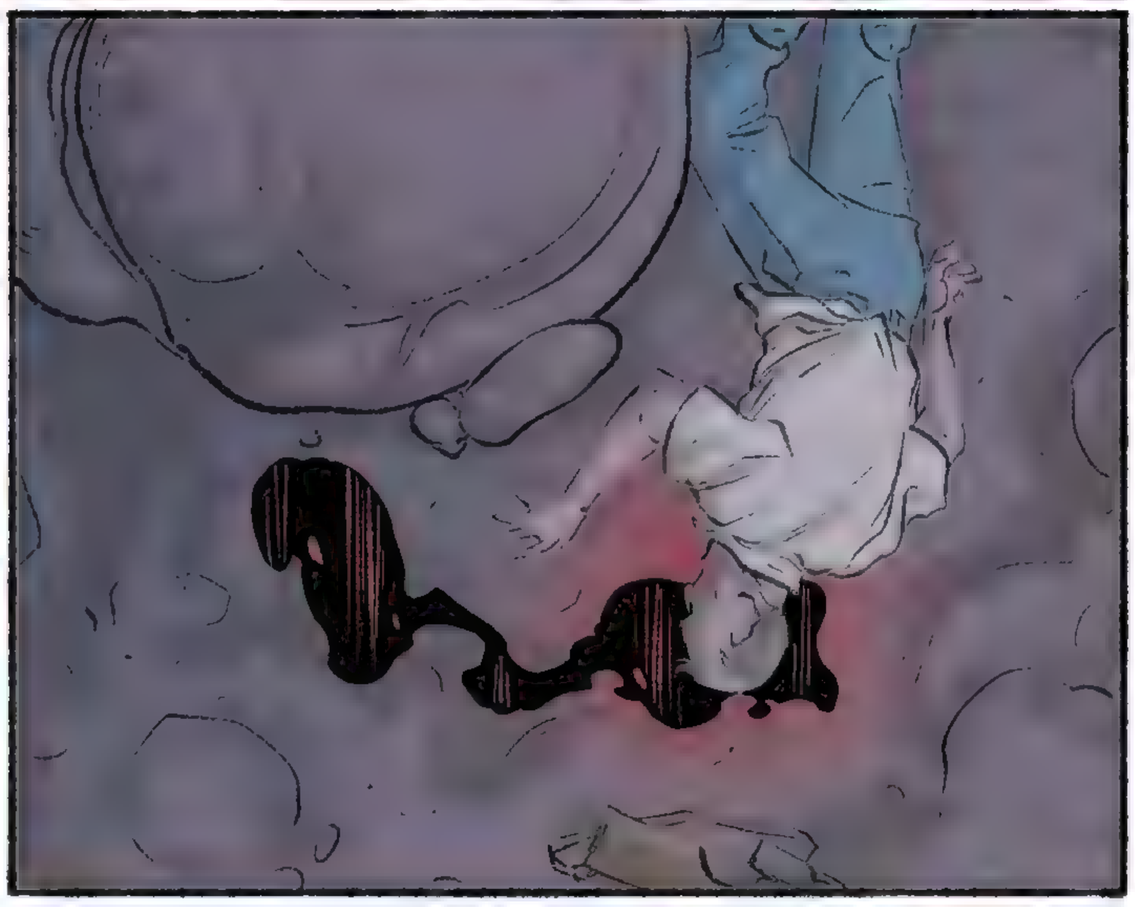

OH--OH GOD!
I--I HAD TO...
YOU COULD SEE THAT I HAD TO...

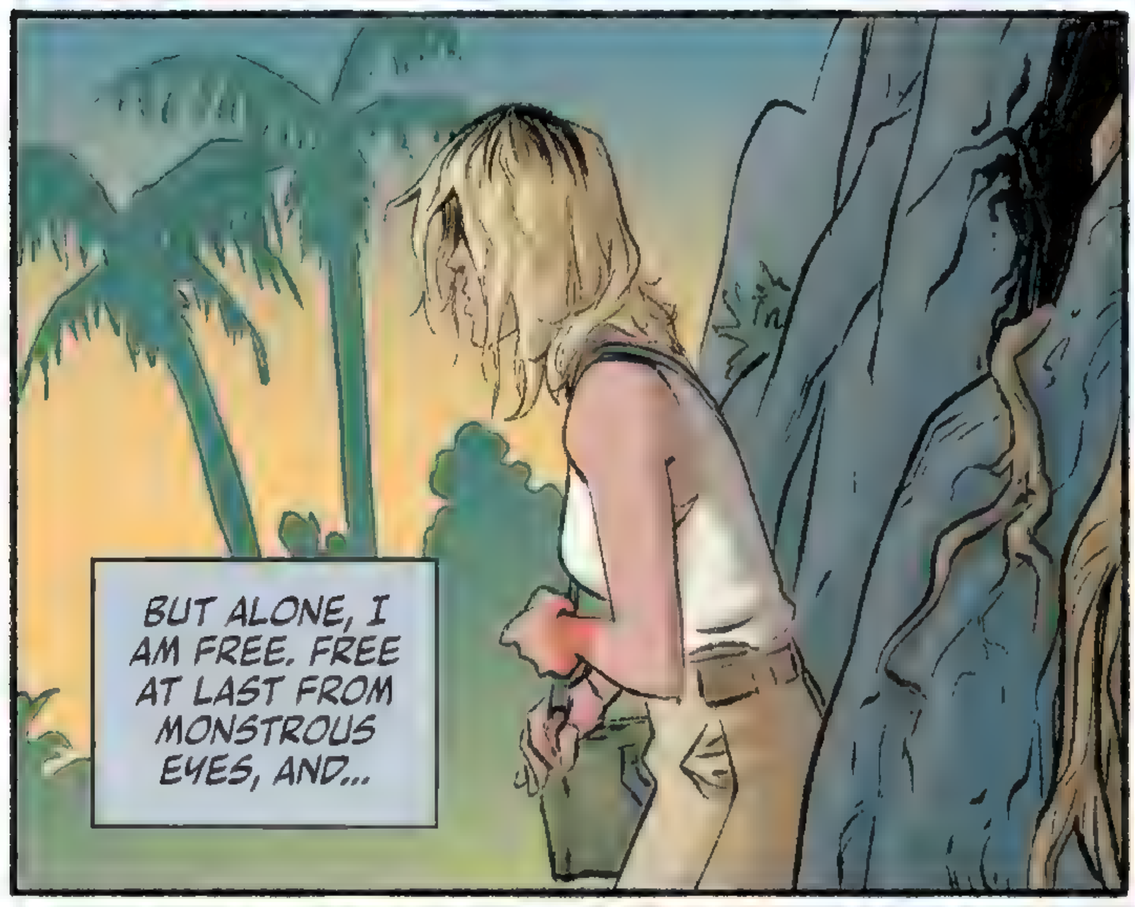
PLEASE...


THE GOD IN THESE CAVES HAS ALWAYS BEEN ALONE...
...AND PERHAPS THAT'S FOR THE BEST.

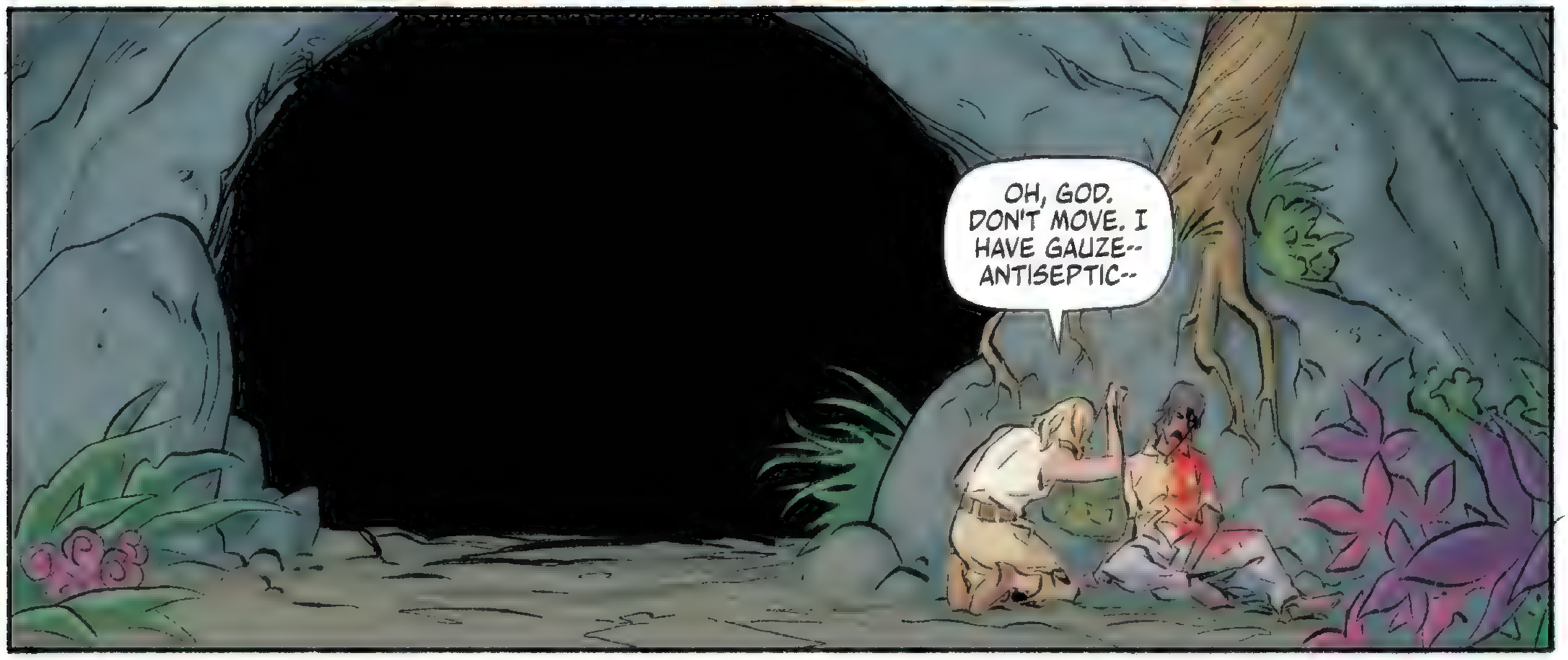

THE WATER HAS **CHANGED** ME. I'LL CARRY IT WITH ME FOREVER. I'LL CARRY WHAT I DID FOREVER...






BUT ALONE, I AM FREE. FREE AT LAST FROM MONSTROUS EYES, AND...

CHRISTIANO?!


OH, GOD. DON'T MOVE. I HAVE GAUZE-- ANTISEPTIC--

CHRISTIANO, PLEASE.
"PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE."
THE END.

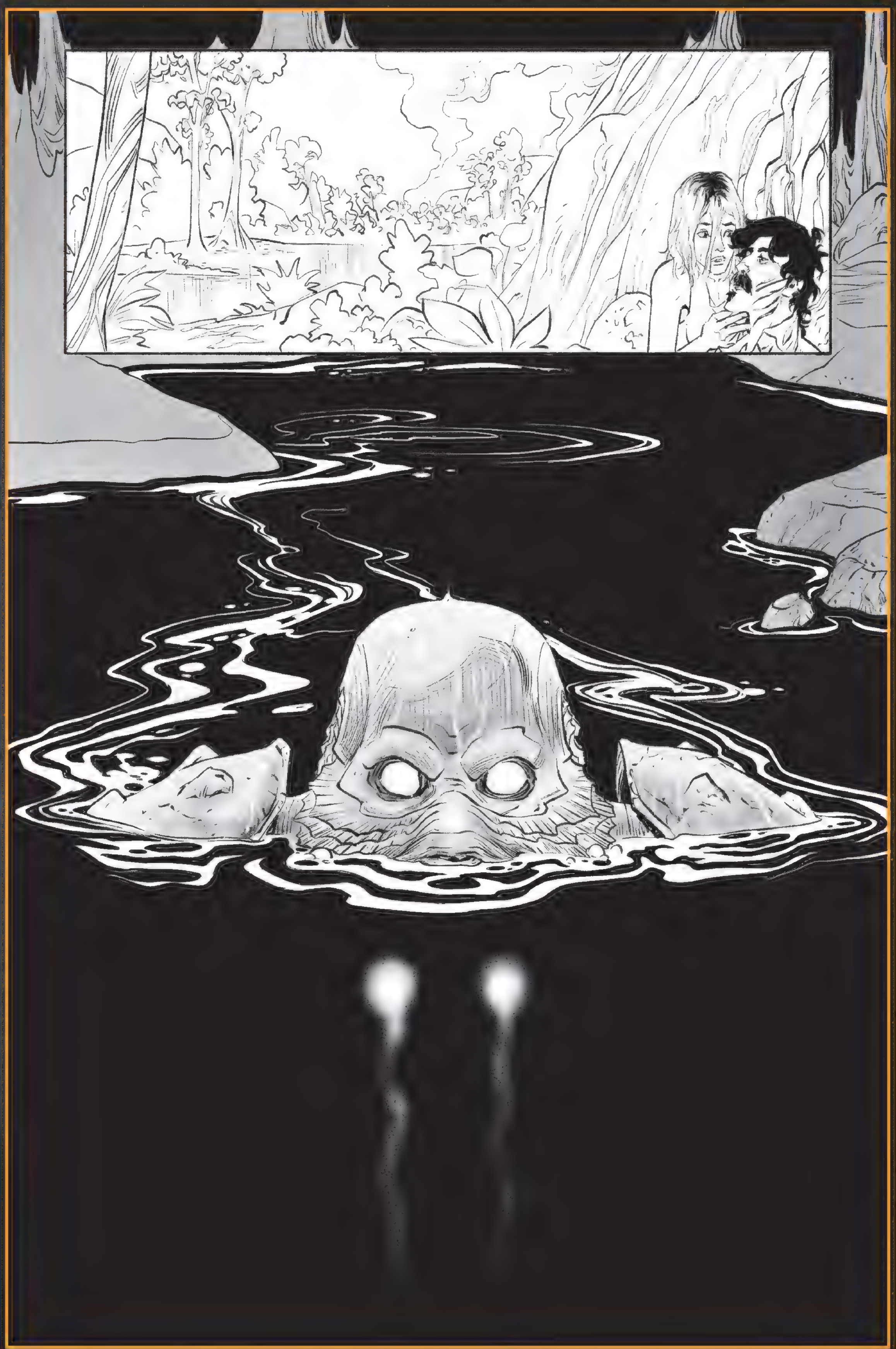
ISSUE TWO MAIN COVER
MATTHEW ROBERTS & DAVE STEWART

ISSUE THREE MAIN COVER
MATTHEW ROBERTS & DAVE STEWART

ISSUE FOUR MAIN COVER

MATTHEW ROBERTS & DAVE STEWART

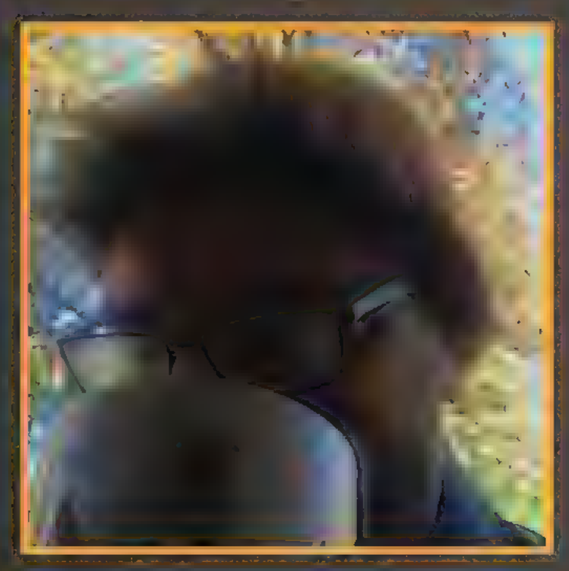
LINE ART: CHAPTER 2, PAGE 23



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dan Watters is a writer from London, and the co-creator of comic series *Home Sick Pilots, Coffin Bound, Limbo,* and *The Seasons Have Teeth*. He has written *Sword of Azrael, Arkham City: The Order of the World,* and *Lucifer* at DC Comics, and *Cowboy Bebop* at Titan Comics.

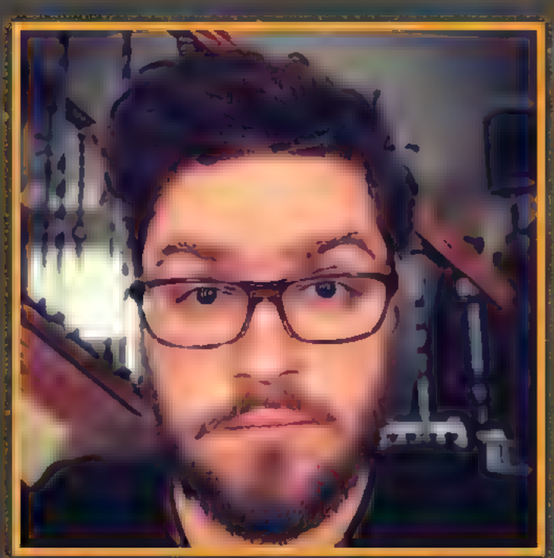
Ram V is an award-winning author and creator of comics & graphic novels such as *The Many Deaths of Laila Starr, Paradiso, These Savage Shores, Grafity's Wall & Ruin of Thieves*. His short stories and comics have appeared in several anthologies. His most recent work includes various titles for DC and Marvel Comics. Conspirator and troublemaker at White Noise Studio. Ram currently lives in London—dog person, doodles, argumentative melancholic.



Matthew Roberts drew dinosaurs and sharks and pegasuses and superheroes. Then he joined the Air Force and drew a few issues of BATTLE POPE and retired from the military and drew MANIFEST DESTINY. Matthew doesn't know what the hell is going on anymore but drawing still seems fun so he's sticking with that for now.

Dave Stewart was born on the high desert, while his mother danced to the chatter of a rattlesnakes tail. Despite a rare case of Sasquatch leg and the desire to run with any northbound moose migration, he found the coloring arts were a suitable profession to fuel the resources needed to build a moonshine still in the backwoods hills of Southwest Portland. Much to his surprise he found that his coloring garnered him industry awards, unlike his feverish gathering of dry leaves for winter bedding. And he colors on.

Patricia Mulvihill attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Her career started as a freelance artist for American Ballet Theater, and a book jacket painter for various publishers. While visiting a friend next door at DC Comics, she found herself drawn into the weirdly wonderful world of coloring. Over the years she has worked on *Wonder Woman, 100 Bullets,* and *Wednesday Comics*, earning an Eisner Award along the way. She still doesn't know how she fell into this career but continues to have a blast.



DC Hopkins is a professional letterer & designer working for clients such as BOOM!, Dark Horse, DC Comics, Dynamite, Heavy Metal, Humanoids, IDW, Image, Lion Forge/ Oni, and more. He is also lead letterer and project manager at Deron Bennett's AndWorld Design studio. DC lives in Indiana with a German shepherd and too many books.

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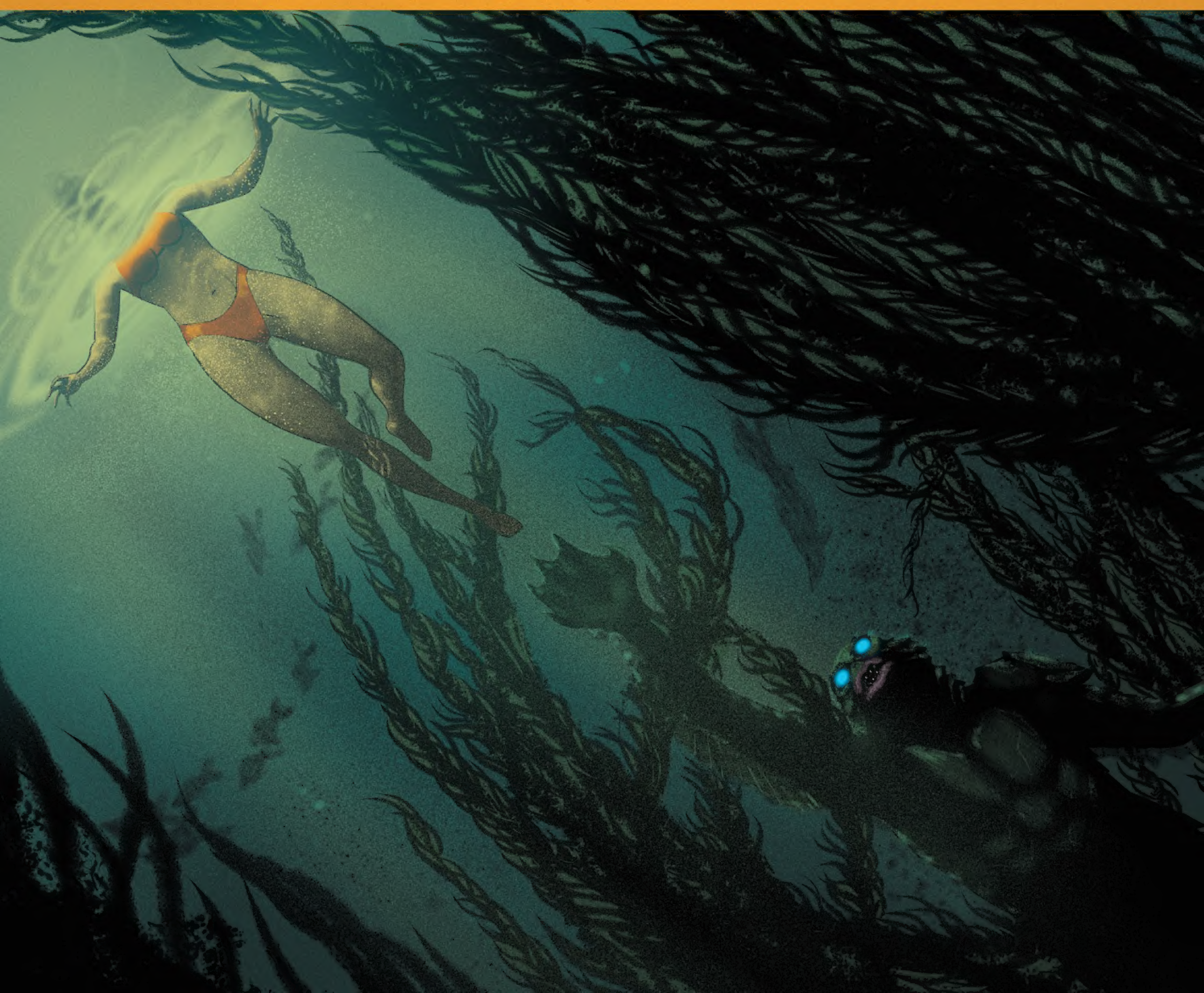

D.R. & QUINCH

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